



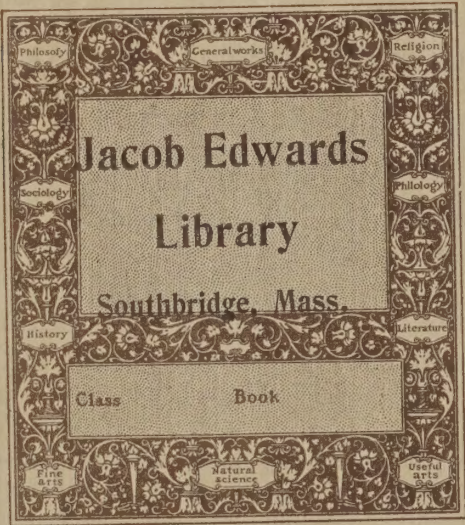
SCRAP
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HAMILTON WOOLEN CO.
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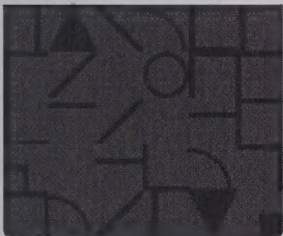
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Hamilton Woolen Co. clippings, 1934-1935.

(Manuscript)

Hamilton Woolen Co.
clippings, 1934-1935.



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Description

Scrapbook consisting of newspaper articles related to the work strike at Hamilton Woolen Company from November 1934-February 1935. Includes clippings from: Southbridge evening news, Southbridge press, Southbridge news, Boston transcript, Boston herald, New York sun, New York herald tribune, and Barron's.

Copies

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Notes

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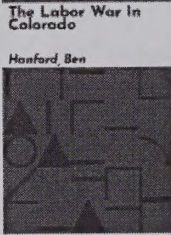
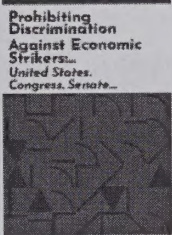
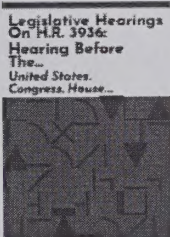
Scrapbook consisting of newspaper articles related to the work strike at Hamilton Woolen Company from November 1934-February 1935. Includes clippings from: Southbridge evening news, Southbridge press, Southbridge news, Boston transcript, Boston herald, New York sun, New York herald tribune, and Barron's.

Subjects

LC Subjects

Hamilton Woolen Company -- History.
Labor disputes -- Massachusetts -- Southbridge.
Southbridge (Mass.) -- History.
Strikes and lockouts -- Massachusetts -- Southbridge.

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Staff View



$\frac{H}{R}$ 974.4 S63.6

Southbridge

Scrap book of clippings concerning the Hamilton Woolen Co.
November 15, 1934 - February 13, 1935.

WEATHER

Fair tonight and Friday.
Warmer tonight and in
southeast portions Friday.

SOUTHBRIDGE

VOL. XII, NO. 71

World-Wide news service of
the United Press Associations

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS., TH

STATE TO AC

Conciliation Board Will Try Again To Solve Differences

400 at Work on Day Shift Today Despite Earnest
Picketing of 350 Strikers; Mill Management
Decides to Discontinue Regular Night Shift

MINOR VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT; 2 ARRESTED

Selectmen Promise Protection to Both Strikers
And Those Who Remain at Work; State Police
Assist Local Officials in Keeping Peace

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, in a tight spot because of the rupture of the agreement it effected here Sept. 28 in settlement of a strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co., this afternoon was attempting in Boston to bring peace in the wake of another walkout at the same plant.

The walkout occurred yesterday shortly after 4 p. m. and came as a complete surprise, company officials said.

The strike was accompanied late last night by two minor outbreaks of violence, one of which resulted in the arrest of two local men on charges of disturbing the peace.

The mill management said today the night shift tonight and tomorrow would be eliminated. The move was made to protect workers.

Members of the Board of Selectmen, hurriedly called into session to devise a method of checking any bursts of fighting before they started, summoned State troopers to Southbridge and procured 10 sub-patrolmen and special officers from Webster to augment the local force.

Selectmen Assure Protection

The Town board took a neutral attitude on the merits of the strike but said it wanted to assure protection both to strikers and to persons who wanted to continue at work at the woolen plant.

No indication was given as to whether the State Arbitration board would come to Southbridge before the end of the day or when it might make a ruling on the walkout.

Under the provisions of the September pact, which climaxed a two-day strike at the mill, company officials and United Textile Workers of America representatives (or agents of any other group) agreed to attempt to conciliate any differences among themselves. If no settlement could be reached, they then had the right to appeal to the State board for a ruling, which, however, was not necessarily binding.

The plant management said today it felt the workers had violated the pact by striking before appealing to the State board.

Strike Committee is Silent

Company officials also said they had received no information from the Hamilton local of the U. T. W. A. concerning the grievance which brought about the strike. They said attempts to find the cause of the walkout from union heads had failed.

Officers of the local were reluctant to make any public assertion concerning the situation at the mill. Yesterday they said "discrimination" was the cause of the walkout but today they had nothing to add.

The woolen firm, which under ordinary circumstances gives employment to 1,000 persons, said 350 workers on both the day and night shifts combined had been affected by the walkout. The union refused to comment on the company's estimate.

No violence was seen at the plant today, either when workers entered the mill this morning before 6:45 or when they left and returned from lunch. Few, however, departed from their jobs at midday to eat, most of them having brought food with them when they reported for work.

State police, under the command of Lieut. Edward J. Gully of headquarters in Boston, resorted to cruising through Globe Village near the mill this noon in order to protect workers who might have been beset by small groups.

Four police cars, each carrying four troopers and local patrolmen, were assigned as cruisers.

Stay at Fire House

While the State police are in Southbridge, they will be quartered at the Central Fire station on Elm st.

Capt. James Mahoney of Boston headquarters said the troopers would remain here until all necessity for protection had been obviated. Capt. Mahoney, who has charge of State activities in Massachusetts, left for Boston shortly

before noon after having spent the night here.

The massing of police near the mill began at 9 p. m. yesterday after the Board of Selectmen had procured all available assistance.

The 10 men who came from Webster under orders from the Webster Selectmen were sworn in as special officers here by Valmore P. Tetreault, a member of the local board, and then were transported to Mill st., the scene of mass picketing.

An appeal for 25 officers from Worcester was turned down when police officials at the county seat demanded a written requisition. Because of the short interval of time, the effort was abandoned locally and endeavors were concentrated on procuring State troopers through permission of Gov. Joseph B. Ely.

EVENING NEWS



TWO CENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1934

Entered as second class matter
Post Office, Southbridge, Mass.

ST IN STRIKE

Parade Until 11

About 350 pickets were in line at the mill gates when the Southbridge and Webster police arrived. The pickets, shivering in a temperature that dropped to 22 degrees, were supplemented within an hour by 100 men and women from out of town, who paraded until nearly 11 p. m., when another of the day's series of union meetings was called at Pilsudski hall.

While the bulk of the pickets were at the meeting, the night shift, guarded by State patrolmen who had arrived a few minutes earlier, left the plant.

The first of the two minor outbreaks of violence then occurred.

Two men, Homer Anger, 31, of 22 Robert st., and Henry Champigny, 37, of 19 Walcott st., were arrested by police, who charged they had hurled rocks in the direction of the departing workers.

Released Under Bail

They were booked at Police headquarters for disturbing the peace and were admitted to bail of \$50 each early today for arraignment in District court tomorrow.

Another man, Paul Traphoni of Woodstock rd., an employe of the Southbridge Finishing Co., was arrested on a charge of drunkenness and today was sentenced to 30 days in jail. Police said he was not in the picket line although he was a spectator.

The second outburst occurred about midnight when four panes of glass were broken at the home of David Simpson Jr. at 906 Main st. Mr. Simpson, a special policeman employed by the woolen firm, was on duty at the mill at the time but members of his family were at home. Mr. Simpson said today three rocks were found inside the dwelling.

Authorities failed to find who tossed the stones but the family said today threats had been made this morning that the episode would be repeated tonight.

Pre-arranged Signals

First intimation of the strike came yesterday afternoon when

about 120 pickets came to the plant from the union meeting, which was addressed by Joseph Sylvia, New England organizer of the U. T. W. A.

By what apparently were pre-arranged signals, some 150 workers of the 400 employed on the night shift, according to company estimates, left the mill, being greeted by cheers from the pickets.

Another union meeting was held at 5:15 p. m. in Pilsudski hall, the session again being addressed by Mr. Sylvia. The purpose of the meeting, according to the union, was to receive instructions concerning steps to be taken during the strike. What the instructions were was not revealed.

Seventy-five pickets appeared at the plant before 6 a. m. today, the below-freezing weather ostensibly cutting their ranks. They greeted workers with cries of "Rat" and "Scab" but made no attempt to block their paths into the mill.

The State police detachment, which had numbered 16 last night, had been augmented to 35 this morning to prevent any rioting.

Claim 400 at Work

The company estimated at 9 a. m. that some 300 workers had entered the plant. By 11, the firm said, the number had increased to 400, which is 200 short of the 600 usually employed. The others had reported for work singly or in small groups during the morning.

By noon the picket line had grown to about 450, a number of whom were reported by police to have come to Southbridge from other communities.

Mr. Sylvia was in the picket line, having returned to Southbridge after his departure early last night. Also noted among the pickets was Ira Dickens, central Massachusetts organizer of the U. T. W. A.

When the scattering of workers who left for lunch had returned, the line again dwindled but was to be restored to full strength prior to termination of work by the day shift at 3:30 p. m.

The plant management, which said it had obtained work for a full crew of 1,000 workers until Feb. 1 although the orders had been taken at a loss, claimed yesterday it had made every effort to meet union officials and iron out differences.

A conference among company and union leaders was held as recently as Nov. 5 on alleged cases of discrimination, the firm said.

Strikers Demand Union

Southbridge News

UNION CHIEFS UNWILLING TO MEET BOARD

**Conciliation and Arbitration Group Comes Here
From Boston in Attempt to Settle Dispute,
But U. T. W. Local Refuses to Arbitrate**

APPEAL CASE TO NATIONAL LABOR BOARD

**Woman Becomes Hysterical When Stones are Thrown
Into Home of Company Policeman, Breaking 5
Windows, Smashing Door and Damaging Piano**

The refusal of union officials to meet the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, which arrived in Southbridge this afternoon to attempt to settle the walkout at the Hamilton Woolen Co., and the first intimation to officials of the plant of the demands of their striking workers, were the two major developments in the local strike situation today.

Refusal to meet the State board was based on the union assertion that it had appealed already to a higher body, the National Labor Relations board at Washington, D. C.

Demands of the strikers, who walked out at 4:15 p. m. Wednesday, were received by woolen company officials through the mail at 9 a. m. today.

The demands of the strikers, turned over to the State board when it arrived here, were four: A union shop, decreased machine load, increased pay, and equalization of work.

A single disturbance marred the night, occurring in Sturbridge at 1 a. m. today when stones were thrown through windows of a house occupied by four Hamilton workers.

The State board, which is headed by Edward Fisher of Lowell, chairman; Raymond V. McNamara of Haverhill, representing employers of labor, and John L. Campos of Fall River, representing employees, went into immediate conference with the mill management when it arrived here.

Members of the board arrived here without knowing the union leaders had refused to confer with them.

Planned Settlement

The board did not reach its decision to come to Southbridge until 11 a. m. today and because of the lateness of the hour, requested that the Selectmen reach union officials and notify them they wished to hear their version of the strike at 2 p. m. in Town hall.

The board had planned to hear the views of both the mill management and the striking union members before its own attempt to reach a settlement agreeable to both sides.

Refusal to meet the board made the plan futile, however.

Picketing was resumed at the plant before 6 a. m. by 100 strikers but there were no disorders attempted under the watchful eyes of local police and 35 State troopers.

The picket line dispersed after the entry of employees who had refused to work but returned in larger numbers at noon.

450 at Work Today

Officials of the company said 450 were on the plant payroll at 11 a. m. today, 50 more than at the same time yesterday.

The mill was scheduled to close for the weekend at 3:30 p. m., the night shift having been eliminated by the company for the second successive day as a precautionary measure.

The management said the plant would re-open as usual Monday at 6:45 a. m. and that if no agreement had been reached concerning a strike settlement, workers would be accorded the protection of Town patrolmen and State police.

Local law officers and troopers cruised the streets of Southbridge all night in a successful effort to check disorders near the homes of workers and a repetition of the episode of the previous night when an unidentified group hurled rocks through the windows of the

home of David Simpson Jr. of 906 Main st., a special policeman employed by the woolen company.

Appear in Court

The two men arrested Wednesday night and another taken into custody yesterday were arraigned in district court before Judge Louis O. Rieutord today.

Homer Anger, 31, of 22 Robert st., and Henry Champigny, 37, of 19 Walcott st., both arrested Wednesday night, were charged with disturbing the peace. John Boudin of Webster, arrested by State Trooper Herbert Olson yesterday, was charged with drunkenness.

All asked and were granted continuances of their cases until Nov. 23 and were released under \$50 bond each.

The Sturbridge stoning occurred at the house occupied by Misses Amanda and Wilhemine Martin and their brothers, Joseph and Adelard Martin. The house is only a short distance beyond the Southbridge Town line on the main road through Sturbridge.

Rock Hits Piano

Joseph Martin is employed as a special policeman by the woolen firm and the others work in various mill departments.

All but Adelard were asleep at 1 a. m., when a rock crashed through a window, barely missed Adelard's head, and struck a piano, doing considerable damage. The intended victim was listening to the radio when the stone was thrown.

He went to the door and was greeted by a barrage of rocks as he approached through the hall. The shower of missiles broke five panes of glass in the storm door and the door which leads into the hall.

Miss Wilhelmine Martin, awakened with the others by the crashes, became hysterical.

Will Ask Protection

Neighbors also heard the falling glass and the family of Homer D. Tate, which occupies the house next door, today said it was going to appeal to the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen for protection.

Indications today were, however, that the scope of the cruising activities of the State police at night would be broadened to include both Sturbridge and Fiskdale, thus obviating the necessity for local protection.

Adelard Martin told police later that as he approached the door he noticed a green car with the men depart. State troopers stationed on Main st. in Southbridge recalled a machine of that description had passed them several times.

The summoning of Webster police to Southbridge to aid local men in what was expected to be a serious crisis Wednesday night found its reverberation in Webster today when the Board of Selectmen in the nearby town ruled that in the future officers cannot be despatched to out-of-town communities for strike duty.

Will Co-operate Though

A detail of 10 sub-patrolmen and special officers arrived here from Webster shortly after 9 p. m. Wednesday night and remained on duty until about 1 a. m. yesterday, when sufficient State troopers had arrived to supplement the Southbridge police.

In banning strike duty in outside communities, the Webster board made it clear it would continue to co-operate with police here in other emergencies.

The decision to eliminate outside strike duty for policemen came as the result of criticism leveled at the board because of its agreement to send men to Southbridge to aid in quelling any rioting which might occur. The Webster Selectmen said that because of the hasty appeal made for assistance, little information was given them concerning the seriousness of the situation here.

State troopers will continue to make their sleeping headquarters at the Central Fire station on Elm st. until the emergency has passed and the police depart.

All leaves for troopers have been cancelled for the duration of the strike.

Shop and Higher Pay

Nov. 16, 34

Pickets Swarm Into Southbridge

Workers at Hamilton Mills Leave Machines by Order of Union

State and Local Police Rushed To Scene

The sudden appearance of a crowd of pickets before the Hamilton Woolen Co's mills at letting out Wednesday afternoon threw the workers and the public generally into a state of consternation, it being feared that the terroristic spirit as displayed at a former strike was about to be repeated, with a horde of out of town pickets swarming about the place, parading, shouting and hurling epithets.

The flare-up came as a complete surprise to the mill officials, and apparently to the workers themselves for the president of the local union, the vice president and other members were in the mill at work up to almost the moment of the arrival of the out of towners. The first the local union members knew of the peremptory order to quit was but a brief time before the cavalcade appeared on the spot.

That there was unrest among certain of the workers was known, there having been several union meetings of late called by Worcester and other organizers who have been active in forming the local union from the beginning, and who have kept a close surveillance upon conditions here. It is said that no less than six meetings have been called in a short period of time and the air has been rife with strike talk.

This week the mill was running with more hands at work than at any time in recent weeks, and yesterday a number of hands were called in to make up time lost on Monday. The general outlook was clearing for a better business by the mill. The executives were not consulted about the intention of a strike and no grievances had been brought to their attention. They had supposed that if disagreement arose between employers and employees that they would be consulted, and if matters could not be adjusted then it would become a matter for the state board of arbitration in labor disputes to consider.

With the inroad of pickets, and with the unfortunate occurrences at the recent strike in mind, the mill executives at a late hour called in the state police, and during the night 35 of that organization arrived on the scene.

Chief Brault and his entire available force were at the scene immediately upon receiving information of the arrival of the pickets and there were also nine officers from Webster hurried in. With this show of the

forces of law and order the pickets, probably assisted by the bitter cold weather, vanished one by one.

At the opening of the mill yesterday morning all was quiet and many of the hands passed along unmolested.

The home of David Simpson, a janitor and special policeman at the plant, was stoned about 11.45, it is reported. Several windows were broken and Mr. Simpson's wife and children frightened. Mr. Simpson was at the plant at the time. Southbridge police arrested Homer Anger, 22 Robert street, and Henry Champigny, 19 Walcott street, near the Simpson house on a charge of disturbing the peace. George Gaumond, 23 Wall street, was arrested on a charge of failing to move when ordered to by police. Early in the night, Paul Traphoni of Farnumsville, one of the out-of-town workers to join the picket line, was arrested on a charge of drunkenness and disturbing the peace.

Police said tacks and nails had been sprinkled in the driveway leading to the main gate, but no punctures resulted.

Richard Lenniham, president of the company, said there had been a series of conferences, but pointed out that the agreement reached in the last strike provided for the appealing to the State Board of Arbitration in event of a disagreement.

"This right of the union still holds good," Mr. Lenniham said.

The union claims that the recommendations of the state board had not been carried out.

In the Polish hall, the Union leaders cautioned the pickets against violence. Miss Gauthier, the president of the Hamilton local, said the move for the walkout was sanctioned by Joseph Sylvia, New England secretary of the U. T. W. James E. Carlen of Worcester, who had charge of Eastern Massachusetts during the general textile strike, was on hand assisting the Union officials.

Richard Lenniham had received no notification of the strike from local union authorities. He said that Miss Gauthier was at work at 4.30 when she received a telephone call from outside sources ordering the strike.

The selectmen are responding to the tense situation and are standing behind Chief Brault and his men.

The townspeople generally, and especially the business interest fear a winter of acute stagnation ahead, and are preparing as best they can. Tax-payers are apprehensive.

State Officers Here

Foil Attempt To Attack Officer's Home Family Greatly Frightened By Threats of Bodily Harm

The 35 state officers who remained in Southbridge all last night were summoned from their night quarters in the Elm Street fire station during the night and made a hurried trip to the home of Officer Martin, a special watchman at the Hamilton mills, it having been threatened by several men, supposed to be out of town pickets who have been swarming into Southbridge the past two days. They appeared at the Martin home in a

green painted automobile and at once terrorized the inmates, the family of the officer being thrown into a state of hysterics. The state officers were a few moments late in apprehending the men, as they got wind of the coming of the officers and sped away. The state officers threw a cordon around the town, blocking all the principal outgoing highways, but up to early this morning failed to get their men.

Southbridge Press
Nov. 16, 34

Southbridge
Press
Nov. 16, 34

FIND 2 STICKS OF DYNAMITE AT HAMILTON

**State Arbitration Board Awaits Information From
Washington Before Making Walkout Decision;
Hearing to Place Blame May be Ordered**

EIGHT ARRESTED AFTER NIGHT OUTBREAK

**N. Y. Textile Publication Reports National Union
Heads Issued Mandate to Cancel Strike Here
As 'Unauthorized;' Confirmation Ungained**

With the strike situation becoming more tense and the outbursts of violence at night increasing in number and daring, efforts to settle last Wednesday's walkout at the Hamilton Woolen Co. today remained at an impasse.

The seriousness of the crisis was emphasized by the discovery of dynamite on Mill st. in front of the plant yesterday.

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration announced today through its Boston office it was hopeful of reconciling differences between striking workers and the plant management over the weekend but was preparing to resort to its last recourse, the order for a general investigation of the walkout to bring to public attention the cause for the strike and to place blame for its continuance.

Edward Fisher of Lowell, chairman of the State board, said he was awaiting information concerning an appeal by the strikers to the National Labor Relations Board in Washington before any action or decision were made by the Massachusetts body.

The increased violence saw the stoning of the homes of two woolen company workers by what police believed were large bands of men and the arrest of eight persons by State troopers and local authorities last night and early today when a demonstration at the plant reached near-riot proportions.

Men who hurled the rocks at the two homes escaped before police could arrive.

Stone Woman's Home

One of the stone-throwing episodes occurred at 2 a. m. today at the house occupied by Mrs. Jennie Allard, a Hamilton mill worker, and her children. The home is located on Ballard st., a street on which is located also Pilsudski hall, the auditorium used by the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America for its union meetings.

Four windows were smashed under the heavy barrage of rocks. Seven stones were found inside the building when police arrived. Considerable damage was done to curtains, which had been drawn, and furniture.

Rocks also were showered on the home of Joseph Dionne at 71 School st. at 11:30 p. m. yesterday. Mr. Dionne told police he was asleep when the stones were thrown, breaking four windows.

Lieut. Harry A. Avery of the Holden State police barracks said today efforts to find the source of the dynamite found on Mill st. yesterday afternoon had been fruitless. State troopers, in charge of the investigation of the dynamite angle of the strike, also have been unable to find who dropped the explosive.

Two Sticks Found

One piece of dynamite was discovered by John Gauthier, 27, of

Stafford st., Charlton, who told police he was in Southbridge on business and had gone to the plant with a friend. He noticed the explosive lying in the street about 20 feet from the mill's main gate at about the same time a State policeman discovered another stick 100 yards distant.

State police said no percussion caps were found on either stick.

The piece found by Mr. Gauthier, who, according to Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, is no relative, was located in such a position that it could have been struck by an auto, which might have caused it to explode.

Strike Unauthorized?

It was reported yesterday in New York in the Daily News Record, publication for the textile industry, that national U. T. W. leaders had recommended to Massachusetts union officials the strike here be called off as unauthorized. Confirmation of the authenticity of the report could not be gained today, however.

About 150 pickets were on duty at the plant at 11:15 p. m. yesterday when the demonstration broke out which brought the arrest of seven men and the subsequent arrest today of an eighth.

The seven arrested during the demonstration which followed the throwing of a rock in the direction of the company's office building on Mill st. and the charges made against them were:

Leonard Loranger, 32, 119 Pleasant st., Alphege Carrette, 31, 10 Walcott st., and Joseph Lamoureux, 47, 111 Pleasant st., disturbing the peace and refusing to move; Hormidas Hufault, 39, Main st., Isadore Varey, 34, 154 Mill st., Joseph Desrosiers, 34, 42 Water st., and John Young, 40, Main st., drunkenness and disturbing the peace.

2 Released, 6 Held

The eighth arrest was that of James Rudolph, 43, 35 Pleasant st., who was arrested at 1 a. m. on Mill st. on a charge of drunkenness.

Loranger and Carrette were admitted to \$50 bail but the others were held in Town jail for arraignment this afternoon in default of bond, which was placed at \$50 in each instance.

State police last night were armed with riot sticks for the first time since they came to Southbridge late Wednesday.

The State board, undismayed by the refusal of Hamilton local officials to meet its members yesterday, went to Pilsudski hall, where a union meeting was in session, and interviewed Ira Dickens, central Massachusetts organizer for the U. T. W. A.

Other conferences were held with the plant management and the Board of Selectmen but the nature of the discussion was not revealed.

Public Hearing Possible

If it becomes necessary to order a general investigation of the local strike, the board will hold public hearings here and call witnesses to testify under oath. During the hearings, the board said, it will continue its efforts to settle the strike. Should no agreement be reached, a written report will be released in which the board will place blame for calling the walkout and its continuance.

The board explained it will rely on public sentiment after its report to check the strike, the body itself having no power to order a return to work.

Floodlights were installed on the plant grounds yesterday and were used for the first time at 11:30 p. m., having been switched on shortly before the disturbance which resulted in the arrest of seven persons.

The plant was closed today and police had no trouble at the mill. Cruising cars operated by State troopers will continue their activities during the weekend in the effort to keep violence at a low ebb.

The mill will re-open Monday at 6:45 a. m.

House Stoning Increases

~~House Stoning~~ ~~Increases~~

HOUSE STONING INCREASES

Good
for
him

HAMILTON CO STOP OPERAT

Conditions Which Threaten Lives, Property Will Force Shutdown, Lennihan Says

Richard Lennihan last night announced to the employes of the Hamilton Woolen Co. and to the Town of Southbridge in general that he will close the plant permanently, thereby rendering upwards of 1,000 persons jobless, if the strike is not called off.

The management of the company is not willing to continue to operate in Southbridge under conditions which threaten the safety of the lives and property of its employes and their families, Mr. Lennihan said in a statement issued to the press at his home shortly before midnight.

The company will not operate a closed shop, the statement said in answer to the first demand made by the local union of the United Textile Workers. Employes are at liberty to organize or to join any union, but the management will not consent to a union shop.

Mr. Lennihan asked employes of the company and members of the community to give serious thought to the question whether the company should (a) re-employ men who have left their places in the mill under conditions which were destructive of work in process; (b) discriminate against those employes who desire to work and have been moved from the night shift to fill the places of operatives on the day shift who left their machines by moving those employes back to the night shift;

(c) discriminate against the great majority of employes in favor of operatives who have struck in spite of the agreements of the union representatives that no strike would be called until all matters in dispute had been submitted to the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration.

Since Sept. 6, when the mill first closed down after flying squadrons from out of town had endangered the safety of lives and property, Southbridge has lost approximately \$100,000 in payroll disbursements, Mr. Lennihan pointed out. Operating costs have been materially increased by three interruptions of production, and if such conditions continue the mill might easily lose capacity to compete in the market, he said. Recently the management has taken on substantial orders, without profit, largely to provide additional work for its employes.

In a concluding paragraph Mr. Lennihan said: "In the last analysis the question of whether Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc. continues to operate in Southbridge will be determined by the public opinion of that community of which the employes of the company constitute an important part."

The night shift will be re-established as soon as the management feels that its workers and their families will be safe from acts of violence.

The statement follows in full:

COMPANY MAY ING IN TOWN

Since September 6, 1934 workers of Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc. have three times been interfered with in their desire to work either by flying squadrons from outside sources or by strikes. Twice the management has taken back everyone it was able to employ regardless of whether or not the employee had contributed to this interruption. During this period the loss to the community in payroll disbursements have been approximately \$100,000.00. Operating costs have been materially increased by these interruptions of production, and if such conditions continue, the mill might easily lose capacity to compete in the market. Recently the management of the Company has taken substantial orders, without profit, largely to provide additional work for its employees.

A strike was called at approximately 4 P. M. on November 14, 1934. Some of the workers, fortunately few in number in comparison with the group of loyal employees, when leaving their work at the time of this strike did so under conditions which were destructive to work in process. Serious damage was avoided only by quick action on the part of loyal employees. It was thought inadvisable to have men work at night until the management was sure they could do so with safety. Consequently the night shift, beginning at 3:40 P. M. and ending at midnight, was discontinued as of Thursday for the time being. Notwithstanding this fact by noon Friday, November 16th, the number of employees back at work was approximately half the total number employed prior to the calling of the strike. The night shift will be re-established as soon as the management feels that its workers and their families will be safe from acts of violence.

At the time of the strike no requests had been made to the management citing conditions to which the union objected. In fact, the president and the secretary of the local union shortly after 4 P. M. on the day of the strike refused to confer with the management for the purpose of stating their grievances. On Friday, November 16, 1934, two days after the walk-out, the management received a letter setting forth the demands of the local union. These demands the management stands ready to discuss in conference with the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The Company admits the right of the employees to organize or to join any union and has so stated its position to its employees as well as to the State Board. Union representatives, speaking for a part of the employees of the Company, entered into an oral agreement on September 28, 1934 with the management of the Company and the State Board to the effect that all disputes which could not be settled with the management would be submitted to the State Board before any strike could be called. On Wednesday, November 14th, at 4 P. M. the management was not aware of any cases in dispute, nor so far as the management can learn had the State Board been notified by any employee of Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc. of any situation that required the Board's consideration.

The employees of Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc. and the Members of this Community should give serious thought to the question whether the Company should

(a) Re-employ men who have left their places in the mill under conditions which were destructive of work in process.

(b) Discriminate against those employees who desire to work and have been moved from the night shift to fill the places of operatives on the day shift who left their machines by moving these employees back to the night shift.

(c) Discriminate against the great majority of employees in favor of operatives who have struck in spite of the agreements of the union representatives that no strike would be called until all matters in dispute had been submitted to the State Board.

The management of Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc. is not willing to continue to operate in Southbridge under conditions which threaten the safety of the lives and property of its employees and their families. It will not attempt to operate a closed shop.

In the last analysis the question of whether Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc. continues to operate in Southbridge will be determined by the public opinion of that community of which the employees of the Company constitute an important part.

HAMILTON WOOLEN COMPANY, INC.

By Richard Lennihan
President

Southbridge, Massachusetts
November 19, 1934

HAMILTON WOOL CO. OPEN SHOP

Merchants Board Agrees to Assist In Retaining Plant

Conference Yesterday Resulted in Deadlock Among
State Board, Mill Management and Officials Of
U. T. W. A. on Issue Involving Union Shop

PICKETING IN GLOBE TODAY IS PEACEFUL

Arbitrators Indicate Investigation to Fix Blame
For Strike and Continuance May be Necessary;
Stores See 'Irreparable' Harm in Departure

The directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co., at a meeting in Boston today, flatly rejected the demands of the United Textile Workers of America for a union shop and countered with the avowal it would operate an open shop under conditions which are safe for its employees or quit in Southbridge.

The decision of the directors came as the result of a deadlock which occurred yesterday among the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, Southbridge and national union officials, and the plant's management, regarding terms for a settlement of the walkout.

Agrees to Meet Directors

Union officials adamantly insisted on a closed shop which was opposed by the officers of the plant.

Richard Lennihan, president of the company, said, however, he would consult the firm's board of directors in Boston today to see if it would agree to the union shop.

The board, after hearing the issue, "definitively" refused to meet the union demand and the company statement followed.

Mr. Lennihan's statement to his employees, issued this afternoon, was:

Vote for Open Shop or to Quit

"The result of a conference held in Southbridge on Monday afternoon, November 19, 1934, between the management of the Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc., Union representatives of part of our employees including both national and local leaders and the State Board came down to the insistence of the union on a Union Shop. The spokesman for the Union said he meant by this that no one could work in the mill unless he was a member of the Union.

"After presenting this issue to my Board of Directors, this demand is definitively refused. We shall operate an Open Shop under conditions which are safe for our employees or quit in Southbridge.

"Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc.

"By Richard Lennihan,
"President."

The executive committee of the Southbridge Retail Merchants board joined the Manufacturers and Merchants association in asking for a prompt settlement of the strike and voted to do all within its power to keep the Hamilton Woolen Co. in Southbridge.

Sees Crisis

The committee saw a real crisis confronting the community in the present strike and pointed to the "irreparable" harm which would come to Southbridge if the company should decide to operate elsewhere.

Other than the open shop decision of the woolen company directors and the plea of the Merchants board, strike activity was at a low ebb today, although picketing was resumed as usual at the mill.

Progress Slight

The State board was here for more than eight hours on its futile errand.

Its members arrived about 10:30 a. m. yesterday and departed after 6 p. m. when Chairman Edward Fisher admitted they had been able to make little satisfactory progress toward a settlement.

He indicated the union officials and plant management had discussed many phases of the walkout but negotiations broke down on the union shop demand. He expressed the opinion the two parties might have been brought together on the other demands—higher pay, reduced machine load and equalization of work—but had remained firmly by their previous declarations on the union shop issue.

Await Conference

Mr. Fisher said the State board would wait until after the meeting of Mr. Lennihan with the company's board of directors before making another attempt to settle the strike. He said that if requested the board would appear before the company directors but otherwise would await their decision.

OTES TO RUN R QUIT TOWN

Nov. 20, '34

To The Employees of The

Hamilton Woolen Company

Incorporated

and the Residents of
Southbridge and
Surrounding Communities

The result of a conference held in Southbridge on Monday afternoon, November 19, 1934, between the management of the Hamilton Woolen Company, Union representatives of part of our employees including both national and local leaders and the State Board came down to their insistence of the Union on a UNION SHOP. The spokesman for the Union said he meant by this that no one could work in the mill unless he was a member of the Union.

After presenting this issue to my Board of Directors, this demand is definitely refused. We shall operate an OPEN SHOP under conditions which are safe for our employees or quit in Southbridge.

Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc.

By RICHARD LENNIHAN, President

Southbridge, Massachusetts, November 19, 1934.

Walkout Remains Unsettled, Negotiations At a Standstill; Union Head Explains Demands

Only 175 Persons are At
Work, According To
Strikers' Count

GRIEVANCES CITED

Miss Gauthier Charges
Preference is Shown
Non-Union Workers

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America, has clarified the point of view of the union on controversial subjects in the first full interview she has given since the strike began a week ago today.

Miss Gauthier told The News the striking workers were not "frightened by the company's threat to leave Southbridge" and said she was confident that the union members, fighting for more equal conditions within the mill, would not go back to work under any circumstance until she gave the word.

Says 175 are Working

She and other union officials denied the company's statement that 500 were at work in the plant yesterday.

Miss Gauthier said a check-up had been made by tellers when the day shift left at 3:30 p. m. yesterday and the tabulation had shown 175 persons left the plant by the three exits, the main gate on Mill st., nearest Main st., the gate opposite the company's office building, and the exit which leads over a bridge to Hamilton st.

She said the check had shown, too, that a goodly number of the workers who had departed at 3:30 p. m. were persons who had not been on the firm's payroll prior to the calling of the nationwide textile strike last Labor Day.

600 Unionists on Strike

The president of the Hamilton local insisted that 600 union members were on strike, at least 500 of whom were members in good standing by virtue of having paid their dues.

Miss Gauthier estimated that not more than 800 persons were on the company payroll when the strike was ordered last week, which compares with the company statement that 600 had been given employment on the day shift and 400 on the night shift prior to the walkout.

She claimed that six or seven times the union's grievance committee had consulted with the plant management in an effort to reach an agreement on what the committee believed were cases of discrimination against union members. She said the committee had been unable to get satisfactory remedial action from such conferences.

One of the grievances she cited was the unequal distribution of work by foremen.

SETTLE THE STRIKE!

—An Editorial—

Up to this time The News has expressed no view of its own on the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co., but has published the news from day to day as fully and impartially as possible.

Today we venture to offer our own conclusions, based on an independent study of the problems involved.

The situation cries aloud for conciliation and settlement. Everyone involved is suffering, and no good can be accomplished for anyone by allowing matters to drag along, with bitterness growing.

Several weeks ago President Roosevelt begged for an industrial truce for the sake of recovery, and it is as important that this request be heeded in Southbridge as in the rest of the country.

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration is ready to do what it can to bring about a settlement, and its good offices should not be refused. An officer of the union has informed The News that the strikers and their leaders are willing to accept mediation. We presume the Hamilton Woolen Co. also would be receptive to conciliation.

Everyone knows the policy of the Washington administration in adjusting labor troubles of this kind. When the A. & P. stores were closed in Cleveland recently, a settlement was reached within a week on the following terms:

The stores resumed business at once.

The company agreed to bargain collectively with representatives of the unions.

Employees were assured of their right to join unions without interference or intimidation.

Other employees were guaranteed against intimidation to persuade them to join unions.

Briefly, the company promised redress of grievances, and the employees were assured of complete freedom of choice in joining unions.

That is the kind of settlement President Roosevelt stands for, and if the Southbridge strike finally is acted upon in Washington, everyone may be sure the settlement would be practically the same as in the A. & P. case.

No one can deny sympathy for adult workers who find only \$10 or \$12 in the pay envelope at the end of the week. We presume the hardships resulting from curtailed pay had a considerable part in causing the feeling of unrest now apparent.

The Hamilton Woolen Co. would, we believe, be very glad to have conditions improve so it could give each worker full pay every week—at wage rates equal to those prevailing in similar woolen mills with which it is obliged to compete.

With the situation disturbed and chaotic, it is probably very difficult for the Hamilton Woolen Co. to get and fill orders in any regular manner, and conditions of employment naturally cannot be satisfactory until peace is restored.

Winter is approaching, and that means hardships for those out of work. A spirit of mutual desire to get together in an honest and tolerant meeting of minds should immediately replace the mood of gloom and despair.

The Hamilton Woolen Co. must not think of leaving Southbridge, and neither must the strike go on to the point where there might be danger of its closing down through inability to take and fill orders.

The workers—those on strike as well as those remaining at their posts—have a stake in the success of their company. It is their permanent means of livelihood, and their own welfare requires them to think of peaceful ways to end the strike honorably at the earliest possible hour.

Further, any settlement which may be reached should be FINAL.

The News is concerned for ALL the people of Southbridge, and not for any special group or interest. It wishes to criticize no one involved in this unfortunate business. It hopes for a return of the spirit of kindness and mutual confidence and good will.

State Arbitration Board
Fails to Appear Here;
Picketing Calm

ISSUES CONSIDERED

Two Arraigned in Court
Get Suspended Terms
Of 1 Month Each

Richard Lennihan, president of the Hamilton Woolen Co., stated this afternoon that he was entirely willing to sit down with the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration at any time to discuss means of settling the strike.

The strike situation at the Hamilton Woolen Co. remained unchanged today as the deadlock between the United Textile Workers of America and the plant management on the issue of a closed shop continued unbroken.

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, which had indicated after Monday's fruitless conference with parties to the strike it might come here today, failed to appear, its Boston office saying the walkout still was under consideration but the board had been unable to make any more progress toward a settlement than it had when it was in Southbridge Monday.

Reports were heard in several quarters during the day the National Labor Relations Board in Washington was sending a representative to Southbridge to study the situation but verification could not be obtained from any source.

Remain Firm

Strikers, through the president of the Hamilton local of the union, Miss Jean Gauthier, said they were prepared to remain in the picket line at the mill until all issues had been settled.

The plant management had nothing to add to its statement issued yesterday after a meeting of the company's board of directors in Boston that the mill "would operate as an open shop under conditions which are safe for our employees or quit in Southbridge."

Picketing at the plant was peaceful again today, 150 pickets assembling before 6 a. m. to meet the day shift as it entered at 6:45. About 200 were in the picket line when the workers went to lunch at noon.

No Molestation

The workers were booed but no effort was made to molest their progress through the gates.

The picket line was considerably larger at noon and its activities were enlivened by the presence of a girl who played an accordion. Again there were no disorders.

The company said an early check of the number of workers who had entered the plant had shown an increase of 20 over yesterday. The noon estimate of the firm was that approximately 500 were in the plant, about the same as yesterday.

Two Arraigned

The estimate was in sharp contrast to figures which the union said it obtained by a check-up yesterday at 3:30 p. m. when the day shift was quitting work. The union said it counted only 175 workers who had left the plant by the three exits.

Arraigned in First District court today on charges of disturbing the peace and refusing to move when ordered by an officer, Leonard Loranger, 32, of 119 Pleasant st., and Alphege Carrette, 31, of 10 Walcott st., were given sentences of one month each, suspended for two years.

Loranger claimed Monday when he was brought into court he had been struck by a State trooper Friday night while being arrested. He said he could obtain witnesses who would verify his statement and the case was continued until today by Judge Louis O. Rioutord.

One of the witnesses, Nicholas Jacobi of West st., told the court his morning Loranger had passed between two cars on Mill st. to enter a lunchroom when he was accosted by a State trooper who demanded to know where he was going.

Taken by Arms

Jacobi said Loranger had told the officer and another State policeman he was going to enter the lunchroom, which the troopers refused to permit, both of them taking Loranger by the arms.

Two other troopers, Jacobi said, then appeared and the fourth one, whom he was unable to identify, struck Loranger twice.

John Chadwick of 245 Marcy st., the second witness, who said he was inside the lunchroom when the episode occurred, bore out Jacobi's testimony but likewise was unable to identify the trooper.

Three of the four troopers were in the courtroom during the arraignment, the fourth, John Avedian, having been called to Worcester to appear in Superior court. The three in the courtroom were Anthony Tarvis, Marshall Burpe and Ralph Hall.

Favor Non-Unionists

Miss Gauthier said that in some departments of the mill when work was given out, non-union employees were favored in the distribution, resulting in a full week's pay for non-union workers and only partial pay for some of those who had joined the Hamilton local.

She said that in some instances union workers had been able to get only a full day's pay or less during a week.

She also cited instances where non-union employees, pushing trucks, had run them into members of the Hamilton local while foremen watched and did nothing to censure those handling the trucks.

Miss Gauthier told of a case where a non-union worker had placed a board between two trucks, covered it with coats, and slept for half an hour while a foreman did her work.

Ask for Equal Work

She intimated such conditions were intolerable to union members and should be eliminated in fairness to them.

In addition to the demand for a closed shop, which is one of the local's chief demands, she said it sought principally higher pay, equalization of work, and reduction of the machine load or stretch-out.

She denied the strike was unauthorized and indicated it had been presaged at least a week in advance by a vote of the local.

She indicated that a local, a small unit of the U. T. W. A., would not assume the risk of calling a strike which could be considered in national circles as unauthorized.

Insist on Order

Miss Gauthier pointed out that most of the officers of the Hamilton local were women and that the strike had been for the most part orderly. She said she and other officers of the local had been insistent that there be no disturbances.

She also intimated State police, who were brought here late last Wednesday night, had been too summary in their treatment of pickets and others who were near the picket lines while they were marching before the mill. Local police, she said, perhaps knowing conditions in Southbridge better, had been more considerate.

Miss Gauthier told The News the grievances which the local held against the company had been forwarded to Washington to the U. T. W. A. national council, which met in the national capital last Saturday, for action that would remedy conditions here.

Union Expects Federal Labor Board to Intervene in Strike; 2 More Local Homes Stoned

**Strikers Vote 500 to 4
To Continue Walkout;
Three Arrested**

**STATE WILL REPORT
400 Participate in Mass
Demonstration; Town
Balks at Parade**

Striking union employees of the Hamilton Woolen Co., who voted 500 to 4 at a meeting yesterday to continue their walkout, which today had entered its second week, are expecting Federal intervention through the agency of the National Labor Relations Board, Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America, said today.

Although picketing by more than 200 men and women at the plant this noon was peaceful, the home of Mrs. Victoria Orzech at 44 Clarke st. was stoned. State police began an immediate investigation.

As nearly as could be established, Mrs. Orzech was supposed to do picket duty yesterday but failed to appear. Troopers were endeavoring to determine whether the house was stoned by strikers.

Company officials said Mrs. Orzech had not worked at the plant since the strike was called.

Miss Gauthier, discussing Federal mediation, said she had been informed a representative of the Federal board would be in Southbridge today or tomorrow to study the situation here.

State Delays Report

The announcement came as members of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration said in Boston they would not come to Southbridge today to continue their efforts to reach a settlement of the strike and that they would have no report to make on the local situation for several days.

Miss Gauthier, who said the strikers still insisted on a closed shop, also stated the first strike relief funds would be sent to Southbridge tomorrow from U. T. W. A. headquarters to be used to aid families who are in need as a result of the union walkout.

Last night was marked by the stoning of the home of another worker, George Laplante of 144 Fisk st. Mr. Laplante is manager of the Hamilton A. A. football team.

Home Stoned

The stoning brought the first arrest police have made during such an episode.

The man arrested is Leo Morin, 22, of 10 Fisk st., who is at liberty under a \$50 bond for arraignment in First District court tomorrow.

He is charged with disturbing the peace at present but police indicated they would press another count, destruction of property, tomorrow.

He was arrested at 8:30 p. m. after a window at the Laplante home had been broken and Mrs. Laplante had called police.

Troopers Respond

A State police cruising car, manned by Troopers Stronich and Reid and Officer Arthur Butler of the Southbridge police force, responded to the call for help and the policemen said they found Morin on the premises with a four-foot knotted stick in his hand.

A short time later, two other men were arrested on Mill st. by State police and brought to police headquarters, where they were charged with drunkenness.

The two, John Petloch, 38, of 29 Clarke st., and Patrick Shea, 52, of 115 Hamilton st., were freed later under bail of \$50 for arraignment tomorrow.

Petloch was arrested by Troopers Milosh and Noone, and Shea by Trooper Travis.

Demonstration Held

A mass demonstration was held by pickets on Mill st. about 10 p. m. yesterday but no disorders were evident.

A permit to parade was refused by Town officials.

To insure against violence during the demonstration, in which more than 400 took part, State police kept 150 spectators moving also, thus permitting no congregation of persons.

Miss Gauthier estimated about 175 were working yesterday in the mill, a figure which was considerably lower than the company's estimate of 500. She also said eight workers had departed from the plant during the day because there was not sufficient work for them to do.

Firm Reports Increase

The company today said it had 520 men and women on the payroll, an increase of 20 over yesterday.

With reports traveling widely that the company would move from Southbridge if it did not gain its objective of an open shop which could be operated safely for its employees and their families, the firm indicated it would operate here or not at all.

Picketing was resumed this morning at the mill, the pickets continuing their march until after 8 a. m., the latest they have maintained their vigil. They returned at noon but no trouble on the picket line was experienced either at mid-day or when the employees went to work at 6:45 a. m. The booing was lusty, however, as workers entered the mill this morning.

The picket line at the plant yesterday afternoon when the mill closed was the largest which has paraded during the present strike, more than 400 men and women joining in the slow circular march before the brick structure.

An Editorial

The strike is an issue that concerns chiefly the employees who are out, the employees who wish to work, and the management. But another large interest is deeply affected, and that is the interest of the community of Southbridge.

The Hamilton Woolen Co. is our second largest industry. During the week ending August 12, 1933, it had 1,252 workers on its payroll exclusive of the office force. During good normal times the mill has jobs for at least 1,000 people. The annual payroll is approximately one million dollars.

Southbridge very nearly lost the Hamilton Woolen Co. a few years ago, when reverses brought the stockholders almost to the point of abandoning the enterprise. Workers faced the loss of their means of livelihood. Taxpayers had an opportunity to think of the consequences to them of the proposed liquidation. Owners of store buildings had visions of vacant property. Merchants wondered what would happen to their business, and some of them faced the certainty of going to the wall.

The danger passed, as we all hope and trust it will again. But it would be folly for anyone to feel too certain about it: Southbridge MUST have industrial peace if it is to retain its present footing.

It is commonly reported that the Hamilton Woolen Co. is considering removal to some other community. It is told that the town of Clinton, which has suffered heavily from the loss of its leading industries and which would greatly appreciate the acquisition of a mill employing 1,000 people, has made overtures. Boston and Worcester papers have several times published statements to the effect that the Hamilton management seriously considers packing up its machinery and taking it elsewhere.

THIS STORY IS UNTRUE. The Hamilton management has not threatened to move its equipment away, to engage in business elsewhere, and has not even thought of doing so. If the Hamilton Woolen Co. operates anywhere, it will do so in Southbridge.

The News has a great deal of confidence in the likelihood of a fair settlement, but it believes everyone should guard himself against being too confident. Great misfortunes can and do befall communities as well as individuals. It is within the realm of possibility that the Hamilton Woolen Co. could be forced out of business, and we may as well face the fact.

The Washington administration is greatly concerned with fair play and a square deal for workers, and it also is intent upon business recovery. It cannot well spare an industry employing 1,000 persons. Taking all these things into consideration, we believe faithful efforts will be made by official mediators to settle local issues fairly.

We must have peace, and The News hopes it may come before Thanksgiving Day. This newspaper has no advice to offer in regard to the terms of a possible settlement. The strikers have a number of grievances they will present at the appropriate time, which should and will be given full consideration. The company has a side, as well.

Probably everyone realizes that while the management should do as much as possible for its employees, it cannot undertake to go out in advance of its competitors without inviting commercial failure. If reforms are needed, they should be worked out through the code authority of the woolen industry, and applied at the same time to all mills.

The News wishes to point out a problem which is very important as an issue in human relations, and which makes an early settlement a matter of the highest importance.

Old friends and acquaintances among the Hamilton workers are now unfortunately divided against each other. Some are sticking to their jobs because their families need their earnings and because they have faith in the company. Others, equally sincere in their convictions, are marching up and down in the picket lines. Jeers and hard words are creating a strained situation that threatens the morale of the mill after peace is restored.

We must have peace very soon, before the present estrangement has a chance to harden into enmity. No mill can prosper unless its workers are on good terms with each other, and the worst thing that could happen to the workers would be a decline in the general efficiency and prosperity of the Hamilton Woolen Co.

U. S. to Probe Strike Trouble At Local Plant

Staff Member of National Textile Labor Relations Board Ordered to Investigate Disturbances At Hamilton Woolen Co.; Expected Here Soon

CALM PICKETING MARKS DAY'S ACTIVITIES

Food to be Given Union Members in Mill Walkout; Five Men Secure Continuance of Charges Until Next Friday; Troopers Call Night Peaceful

The Textile Labor Relations Board today ordered an investigation of labor disturbances among workers at the Hamilton Woolen Co., the United Press learned in Washington today.

The board has sent Walter C. Taylor, a member of its staff, here to inquire into the controversy, the United Press continued, but the Federal body has received no report from him.

Mr. Taylor was known to have been in Providence, R. I., yesterday, with Col. Frank P. Douglass, newly-appointed member of the Textile Labor Relations Board. Mr. Taylor and Col. Douglass visited textile plants in the lower Blackstone valley and were accompanied by Joseph Sylvia, New England organizer of the United Textile Workers of America; Russell Fisher, secretary of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, and Robert L. Anthony, president of the R. I. Textile association.

Col. Douglass, famed for mediation of railroad labor disputes, left Providence to visit plants in central Massachusetts today but neither he nor Mr. Taylor, the board's appointee to investigate the disturbances at the local mill, had arrived here this afternoon.

Closed for Weekend

The scheduled appearance of Mr. Taylor, however, brought hope that Federal mediation might settle the Hamilton walkout within a few days.

The plant closed at 3:30 p. m. today for the weekend after a day of peaceful picketing which saw no molestation of workers.

State police reported last night to have been the calmest since they came here to maintain order late Nov. 14, the day the strike was called by the union.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, said U. T. W. A. officials had forwarded relief to Southbridge in the form of food which would be distributed to strikers. The Worcester Central Labor union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, also has voted "financial and moral support" to the local strike, its president, Freeman M. Saltus, having lauded Miss Gauthier as "an inspiring leader."

Say 531 are at Work

The company reported today its payroll continued to increase, the number having gone from 520 yesterday to 531 today.

Five men, scheduled for arraignment in District court this morning, were given continuances by Judge Louis O. Rieutord until next Friday.

The five are Leo Morin, 22, of 10 Fisk st., who was arrested Wednesday night and charged with disturbing the peace after a home had been stoned; John Petloch, 38, of 29 Clarke st., and Patrick Shea, 52, of 115 Hamilton st., who were charged the same night with drunkenness, and Homer Anger, 31, of 22 Robert st., and Henry Champigny, 37, of 19 Walcott st., arrested Nov. 14 on counts of disturbing the peace.

All are at liberty under bail of

A SERIOUS CONDITION

(Gardner News)

Southbridge faces a very serious situation. The dispute between the Hamilton Woolen Co. and some of its employes may mean the loss of that industry to the town. No town can afford to lose an industry that employs 1,000 residents. The concern may be able to stand the expense of moving elsewhere but employes cannot afford the loss of pay that aggregates a million dollars in a year. Neither can the merchants of the town afford such a loss.

Were the concern to transfer its activities to some other town or city, a certain number of former employes would not be welcome to follow it. To the others, loyal to the concern or at least willing to work under present conditions, the cost of moving is a setback from which it is not easy to recover.

From news reports it appears that there was a possibility that points of disagreement, except that of unionizing the shop, could have been arbitrated. If one side or the other does not yield, Southbridge and this part of the State will suffer.

MILL ORDERS TAKEN AT A LOSS

The New York Times says: Many mills now have sufficient business on their books to keep them running for several months. The orders, however, were taken at unprofitable levels, and regrets are frequent that a greater volume could not have been booked at higher prices. Nov. 23/34

Other Strikes Threaten

There was no demonstration at the mill last night but 170 pickets were parading at 6:45 a. m. today when the day shift entered the plant. More than 200 had assembled at noon.

Strike attention today also was focused on Uxbridge, where 1,350 textile workers employed at the Uxbridge Worsted Co. and the Waucantuck mill are to vote tomorrow at 10 a. m. on a proposed walkout. The meeting was called by Thomas J. Flynn, president of the Uxbridge local of the U. T. W. A.

In Webster, H. Wadsworth Crawford, agent of the Stevens Linen Works, denied reports union workers had demanded recognition of the U. T. W. A. and a 10 percent increase in pay. About 700 persons are employed at the plant. Mr. Wadsworth admitted conferences had been held with union officials recently and said a company statement would be issued later.

The Labor Strike at Globe Village

The strike at the Hamilton mills continues, although many of the hands are at work with additional men and women adding to the number with each passing day. The strikers appear at the mill every morning and in large numbers walk up and down jeering those who go along into their jobs. They are also met on returning at the close of the day and again jeered and booed. In some instances there have been violations of the law, with windows smashed in the homes of the workers and bodily harm threatened.

When the state board of conciliation came here some days ago, their session was attended by Richard Lenniham, president of the company, who in a conciliating but firm manner stood for the rights of company and their loyal workers. According to announcements appearing in Worcester papers the representative of strikers, Mr. Dickens remained adamant for a closed shop. Around this item in the list of demands of the strikers, it is said the issue depended almost entirely. The company, willing to discuss freely all subjects presented, took a decided stand against the closed shop demands and so as the day wore on the meeting proved a complete stalemate.

The state board went away unable to give a decided answer, or rather an answer that would give hope of a speedy settlement. The officers of the local textile union were at the conference, which was held in the town hall building.

There have been several arrests

during the week for drunkenness, smashing windows and interfering with workers passing to their work or returning from it.

The strikers appear to be awaiting advices from the highest authority in their union, and have appealed to Washington headquarters, apparently over the heads of the state board of arbitration in labor disputes. Such is the generally accepted report.

At the mill operations are increasing, and some of those who are there daily say that more than 500 hands are at work. This corroborates the statement made by the company executives.

The selectmen and business men of the town are doing all they can to clear up the differences, and the Merchants & Manufacturers association and the Retail Merchants organization, are doing all they can to keep the Hamilton Woolen Co. in Southbridge.

The company directors at a meeting in Boston voted unanimously in opposition to the closed shop demands of the strikers, and it is understood that the company will leave Southbridge altogether unless it can operate here free from the onerous conditions imposed by the strike.

There is widespread apprehension that the company is getting ready to pull up stakes, seeing in that course its only chance to safeguard its assets.

The townspeople as a whole look upon that possibility with well grounded alarm.

Statement of Hamilton Woolen Co's Position on the Strike

Richard Lenniham, president of the Hamilton Woolen Co. issued the following statement regarding the strike at the mills:—

"Since Sept. 6, 1934, workers of Hamilton Woolen Co. have three times been interfered with in their desire to work either by flying squadrons from outside sources or by strikers. Twice the management has taken back everyone it was able to employ regardless of whether or not the employees had contributed to the interruptions. During this period the loss to the community in payroll disbursement has been approximately \$100,000. Operating costs have been materially increased by these interruptions of production; and if such conditions continue the mill might easily lose capacity to compete in the market.

"Recently the management has taken substantial orders without profit to provide additional work for its employees. A strike was called at 4 p.m. Nov. 14. Some of the workers, fortunately few in number, when leaving their work at the time of the strike did go out under conditions which were destructive to work in progress. Serious damage was avoided only by quick action on the part of the loyal workers. It was thought inadvisable to have men work at night until the management was sure they could do so with safety. Consequently the night shift which ends at midnight was discontinued on Thursday. Notwithstanding this fact, by noon Friday, the number of employees back at work was approximately half the total number employees prior to the calling of the strike. The night shift will be reestablished as soon as the management feels that the workers and their families will be safe from acts of violence.

Union Refused Parley

"At the time of the strike no request had been made to the management citing conditions to which the union objected. In fact the president of the union, Mr. Dickens, met

union shortly after 4 o'clock on the day of the strike refused to confer with the management for the purpose of stating their grievances. On Friday, two days after the walkout, the management received a letter setting forth the demands of the local union. These demands the management stands ready to discuss in conference with the state board of conciliation and arbitration. The company admits the right of the employees to organize or to join any union and has so stated its position to its employees as well as through the state board.

"Union representatives, speaking for a part of the employees of the company, entered into an oral agreement on Sept. 28, 1934, with the management of the company and the state board to the effect that all disputes which could not be settled with the management would be submitted to the state board before any strike could be called. On Wednesday, November 14, at 4 o'clock, the management was not aware of any cases in dispute nor so far as the management can learn, had the state board been notified by any employee of the company or any situation that required the board's consideration.

"The employees of the company and the members of this community should give serious thought to the question whether the company should A, re-employ men who have left their places in the mill under conditions which were destructive to work in progress; B, discriminate against those employees who desire to work and had been removed from the night shift to fill the places of operators on the day shift who left their machines by moving these employees back to the night shift; C, discriminate against the great majority of employees in favor of operatives who have struck in spite of the agreement of the union representatives that no strike would be called until catters in dispute had been submitted to the state board."

Step Taken to Recruit Members for Union At AO; Hapgood Arrested

Charlton Home Stoned in New Strike Trouble

News

Nov. 24, '34

Sturbridge Athlete, Called Striker, Arrested By State Police After Rocks Break Windows Of House Occupied by Woolen Firm Employee

MISS GAUTHIER SEES SETTLEMENT SOON

Federal Mediators, Delayed in Rhode Island, Are Expected to Arrive Here Today to Investigate Walkout; Relief Station is Established

The Charlton home of a worker at the Hamilton Woolen Co. was stoned early today with the resultant arrest of a Sturbridge athlete as striking union employees of the woolen firm were marking time prior to the arrival of Col. Frank P. Douglass, a member of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, and Walter C. Taylor, a board staff member, who will attempt to settle the local walkout.

The home stoned was that of Henry Bachand on Dresser Hill rd.

State police were called shortly after the episode had occurred and at 10 a. m. today arrested Leon Beausoleil, 22, of Sturbridge rd., Sturbridge, on charges of destruction of property and disturbing the peace.

He was placed under bail of \$500, the heaviest yet imposed in strike disorders, and will be arraigned in District court Monday. He was unable to procure bond this morning.

The stoning occurred at 1:15 a. m. today while Mr. Bachand's father, Peter Bachand, and a brother, Alexander, were working at the Southbridge Finishing Co. and other members of the family were asleep.

Mrs. Peter Bachand said today she could identify Beausoleil positively as one of the group of three men she saw near the house and charged that he had threatened her son earlier in the day. She said he was a striker.

Rock Hits Bureau

One of the stones was thrown through a window of a room in which a girl, Vivian Bachand, 12, a sister of the Hamilton worker, was sleeping. The rock crashed against a bureau and bounced to the floor near the girl's bed, her mother said. Two other children, Norman, 14, and Edward, 10, were asleep upstairs.

Two other rocks were thrown through windows into the front room.

The family was awakened and Mrs. Bachand rushed to the door. She saw the three men and cried to her son Peter to "get a gun." She said they then fled. She noticed two cars parked near the house.

The arrest today was made by State Troopers Avedian and Gavin.

Expected Today

The members of the Textile Labor Relations Board were expected to appear in Southbridge yesterday but union officials were informed late in the day the mediators were delayed at a Rhode Island mill which is experiencing labor trouble. They were told Col. Douglass and Mr. Taylor would be here today and to remain in their homes where they could be reached when the pair arrived.

Officials of the woolen company indicated, however, they had not been informed of the impending visit.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America, said today she was hopeful the strike might be settled early next week.

Relief Given

There were no pickets at the mill today, the plant having been closed yesterday at 3:30 p. m. for the weekend. Workers who left the mill were booed by the more than 300 pickets who were in line.

U. T. W. A. heads have established a relief station on the property of Joseph Liro on Pleasant st. and already have started to give food to striking workers.

The management of the mill said today it had received a number of applications for work from persons in the vicinity of Southbridge and would give them consideration.

Definite attempts to unionize the American Optical Co. were being made today as the center of strike interest shifted from the Hamilton Woolen Co., where picketing was resumed this morning.

Powers Hapgood, 34, of North Brookfield, who said he was a representative of the Central Labor Union of Worcester, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, admitted on the witness stand in District court today following his arrest in front of the optical concern shortly before 8 a. m. that he had been sent here from Worcester this morning with orders to recruit members for the union from the AO.

Hapgood, who was taken into custody on a charge of refusing to move when ordered by police, was giving instructions to workers as they entered the main gate on Mechanic st. to attend a meeting tonight in Eagles hall, police said.

Issuing the same orders at the employees' entrance to the Lonsdale plant, police said, was Thomas Donnelly of Worcester, who aided in the organization of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America. Donnelly, however, was not arrested.

Return at Noon

Hapgood and Donnelly returned to the plant at noon when employees left for lunch but there was no trouble.

A meeting to secure union members at the AO was held in Eagles hall Saturday afternoon but was poorly attended. Estimates of the number of optical company employees at the session ranged from two to as high as 15. Hapgood, who was taken to Police headquarters by Officers Albert Lamarine Jr. and Ovila Martin of the local department, was fined \$5 by Judge Louis O. Rieutord when he was arraigned. He appealed and was released under \$25 bond for appearance in Superior court.

Lamarine Testifies

Officer Lamarine told the court Hapgood had failed to move when requested and that he brought him to headquarters to be booked.

The North Brookfield man, however, insisted on the witness stand he had been moving when the patrolman accosted him. He said he did not speak to Officer Lamarine until he was addressed a second time. He testified he then turned to face the policeman, halting for perhaps two seconds, to tell him he was moving.

Hapgood became engaged in several discussions with Judge Rieutord and at one juncture expressed the hope the court would free him, thus setting an example of law and order for the local Police department.

Striker Takes Stand

Hapgood had several witnesses, including Donnelly, who was refused permission to testify on the court's ruling his evidence would not be pertinent in the hearing.

Another witness for Hapgood was John Libuda, 47, of 176 West st., who was employed by the Hamilton Woolen Co. until the strike was called Nov. 14. He said Hapgood was moving, as did Weldon Kye and Alvin Latour,

persons around Hapgood as he walked before the entrance to the main plant.

Officials of the Hamilton Woolen Co. said today 551 persons were on the firm's payroll, 20 more than when the mill closed for the weekend last Friday at 3:30 p. m.

Promise 'Stuffed Stones'

There were no disorders over the weekend although promises were heard today some of the workers would get "stuffed stones instead of stuffed turkeys for Thanksgiving."

Local union leaders announced chickens will be given to families of needy strikers for Thanksgiving.

The company said it had heard no word from Washington concerning the arrival of representatives of the National Textile Labor Relations Board to investigate the walkout.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, said there were no new developments in the strike situation today and added the union still was awaiting definite information from Washington concerning the arrival of representatives from the national board.

More than 100 persons were in the picket line at 6 a. m. and its ranks grew when the noontime picketing was resumed. No attempt was made to molest any of the employees entering the gates, however.

Appeals Sentence

Leon Beausoleil, 22, of Sturbridge rd., Sturbridge, arrested Saturday by State troopers after the stoning of a house in Charlton occupied by Henry Bachand, a woolen company employee, was given two months in the House of Correction on a charge of destroying property. He appealed and was freed under bond of \$500, posted by his father, for appearance in Superior court, Worcester, during the term which starts next Monday, Dec. 3.

A charge of disturbing the peace was filed by Judge Rieutord.

State Policeman John Avedian said he went to the Beausoleil home Saturday to arrest the Sturbridge athlete and was told by the suspect he went home after a strike meeting in Pilsudski hall on Ballard ct. Friday afternoon, ate and went to bed. Trooper Avedian informed the court he saw a car in the Beausoleil yard and that tire marks indicated it had been used Friday night.

Noticed Coat

Mrs. Peter Bachand, mother of the Hamilton worker, said she had been acquainted with Beausoleil for about 11 months and he formerly visited her Charlton residence, having been friendly with her son. She said she saw him running downhill in the moonlight after the stoning and testified he was wearing a brown jacket with a belt. The attire was similar to that which he wore when arrested by State police later Saturday, Trooper Avedian said.

The woolen company employee also identified Beausoleil and said he had threatened him Friday from the picket line.

Beausoleil, on the stand, repeated the story he told Trooper Avedian.

Aunt Tells Story

His aunt, Mrs. Ludger Cloutier of 39 School st., informed the court she had been at the house in Sturbridge all Friday night caring for Beausoleil's mother, who had been ill. She claimed the defendant was there during the time, basing her statement on the fact that she saw his shoes in the kitchen.

The defendant's brother, Armand Beausoleil, 15, was called to the stand and he indicated Mrs. Cloutier had gone home with her husband at 8:30 p. m. Friday night.

Judge Rieutord then sent for the husband, who corroborated the testimony of the younger Beausoleil by saying he took his wife home at 8:30 p. m.

Mrs. M. A. Desrochers, pastor Notre Dame church, appealed yesterday at all masses to have the strike settled immediately so parishioners and residents might rejoice in a happy Thanksgiving.

Radicals Trying to Start Series Of Strikes in Mill Towns, Police Say

[Special Dispatch to The Herald]

SOUTHBIDGE, Nov. 27—Radical followers of Powers Hapgood, labor agitator, who was fined here this morning, are attempting to start strikes in mills here and in surrounding towns, police said tonight, in an attempt to split up the state police patrols, so that a concentrated effort may be made at one selected point.

About 300 of 700 workers in the Stevens linen mills in Dudley went on strike at noon today, demanding shorter hours and a 20 per cent. wage increase for U. T. W. members. Efforts will be made to precipitate other disorders in Uxbridge and Webster, it was said.

Windows were broken tonight when

the home of H. W. Crawford, mill agent, was stoned in Dudley. Mill officials offered the strikers an immediate increase of 10 per cent. and an additional 10 per cent. within six months, but the offer was refused, they said, by strike leaders. The mill management then announced that if the mill is forced to close, it may close permanently.

Hapgood was fined this morning for failing to move when told to do so by a policeman last night, when an attempt was made to organize the 3000 employees of the American Optical Company.

Settlement of the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Company, which began Nov. 14, appeared near today when Miss Ida Weinstock, federal conciliator, conferred with Richard Lennihan, president of the company, and strike leaders.

UNION SESSION DRAWS BUT 75 AO EMPLOYEES

News Nov. 27 '39
**Hapgood Tells Workers He
Will Return to Town
To Form a Union**

YOUTH IS FINED \$5

**Stypulkowski is Arrested
For Failing to Move;
Claim 567 at Work**

Fewer than 75 employees of the American Optical Co. attended a meeting in Eagles hall last night when three organizers from the Worcester Central Labor Union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, urged workers to become union members for their own protection.

One hundred persons attended the meeting, which was addressed by Powers Hapgood of North Brookfield, who said he was sent here yesterday morning to recruit union members at the optical firm.

As nearly as could be determined, about two-thirds of those present were AO employees and the rest were Hamilton Woolen Co. strikers or persons who were impelled by curiosity to hear the exhortations of Mr. Hapgood and his two companions.

Gave 200 Blanks

Mr. Hapgood claimed he distributed approximately 200 union application blanks to those at the meeting, saying many took several blanks for distribution to their friends employed at the optical company.

He promised another meeting would be held "very shortly" although he did not indicate whether it would be this week.

He said he hoped to form a local at the American Optical Co. on his next visit to Southbridge and added that workers would be informed of the session by shouts as they report to work, the method used to announce last night's meeting.

Score Piece Work

Other speakers included Mrs. Mary Donovan Hapgood, Mr. Hapgood's wife, and Weldon Cate of Worcester, who appeared in defense of Mr. Hapgood when he was arraigned in District court here yesterday to answer a charge of refusing to move when ordered by a uniformed policeman.

The trio scored piece work as detrimental to the worker's good and all urged that employees of the optical concern organize for their own "protection." They were applauded generously.

There was no disturbance at the optical firm today although a youth was arrested at the woolen company as pickets resumed their pacing before the plant.

Appeals Fine

The youth, Anthony Stypulkowski, 21, of Sturbridge rd., was taken from the picket line by State troopers about 6 a. m. and charged with refusing to move. He was fined \$5 in Webster District court and appealed. Bail for his appearance in Superior court, Worcester, was fixed at \$25.

Officials of the woolen firm said Miss Anna Weinstock of Worcester, a field representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, had telephoned them this morning asking for an interview this afternoon. The company said it was completely willing to talk with her.

The company reported today it had 567 persons on its payroll at 11 a. m., an increase of 16 over the number who came to work yesterday.

Picketing is Noisy

The picketing was noisy but no employee was touched by the marchers as he entered the mill. More than 200 pickets were in line at the noon hour today.

In Webster, where it is believed a strike impends at the Stevens Linen mills, which employ 750 persons, clergymen and leaders in the professions met last night with the Board of Selectmen in an effort to determine a way of effecting an amicable settlement of differences between the plant management and its union employees.

The Stevens mill officials yesterday rejected demands made by the United Textile Workers of America, which are believed to have included recognition of the union, an increase in wages and changed working conditions.

Despite the rejection of the demands, employees remained at work.

Labor Organizers Get Cold Reception Here

An attempt of outside labor agitators to start trouble at the American Optical factory on Monday was a dismal failure, the employees of the company being among the first to enter a protest, at once vigorous and effective. Taking advantage of the unrest among the textile workers hereabouts, the agitators thought it a good time to start something more in Southbridge. They came, they saw, and were vanquished.

Headed by Powers Hapgood of North Brookfield and his lieutenant, a man named Donnelly from Worcester, they posted themselves at the optical factory bright and early Monday morning, and began accosting the workers as they passed along, asking them to attend a big meeting to be held in Eagles hall in the evening, a meeting which also turned out to be a dud.

It was in contact with the police that the early morning activities of

Hapgood came to a sudden end. Police Officer Lamarine of the Southbridge force warned him to keep moving, not once but several times. The upshot of the colloquy between the policeman and the agitator was an enforced visit of Hapgood to the police station. The action of the police received general applause from the workers. A little later Judge Rieutord imposed a fine of five dollars on him, and this brought an appeal and a speech from Hapgood. Pending the appeal he is out on bail, putting up the required \$25.

The evening's meeting in Eagles hall was held, attended by about 75 persons, mostly textile workers out on strike and a certain number of the curious minded of no particular bent. And so ended the affair. The optical employees are a unit in their resentment of the attempt to start trouble among them.

M and M Will Try to Secure End of Walkout PROMISES TO PROTECT ALL WHO GET JOBS

**Merchants Group Deplores Possible Necessity Of
Going Out of Southbridge for Workers But
Feels Interests of Majority Must Rule**

**SHUTDOWN WOULD CAUSE TAX RATE JUMP
Rate Would Increase \$15 or \$20 If Hamilton Co.
Should Stop Operating, is Estimate; 2 More
Disturbance Cases Tried in District Court**

The Manufacturers and Merchants association at a special meeting today noon at Hotel Columbia to consider the problems raised by the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co., decided to use every possible effort to secure a settlement and early resumption of full activity at the mill.

In a public statement the M. & M. said it deplored the possible necessity of going outside Southbridge to obtain workers to fill positions which could be occupied by local residents but added it felt the interest of the many must take precedence over the desires of the few.

Prediction was made at the meeting today that loss of the industry to Southbridge would result in a \$15 or \$20 increase in the tax rate, thus bringing it to \$50 or \$55 per \$1,000.

A settlement by conciliation and arbitration is desired if it can be arranged with justice to all concerned. If arbitration is refused, then the M. & M. will consider other steps to restore peace and full-time operation of the mill.

It was the sense of the meeting that the strike constitutes a serious menace to local trade and industry, and that as good citizens all members should lend their influence, for the good of Southbridge, to bring the trouble to an early end.

The M. & M. at its meeting this noon ratified the statement, which was drafted by members of its executive committee, and authorized the committee to take any steps necessary toward alleviating the present situation.

Several suggestions were made concerning procedure but all were left to the committee for action.

It was pointed out at the meeting that full information concerning the strike was necessary in order that the public might have available all details of the walkout.

Statement Given

The M. & M.'s official statement said:

"Two weeks now have elapsed since the walkout of some of the employees of the Hamilton Woolen Co. During this time the M. & M. has been viewing with increasing concern the resulting situation. If the differences now existing are not adjusted and the situation is not cleared up rapidly immediate widespread unemployment will result in Southbridge because of the loss of present and future orders for merchandise. Failure to settle this situation promptly may mean the eventual loss to Southbridge of an industry employing about 1,000 of our people and disbursing in payroll about a million dollars annually.

"While the number of workers has shown a daily increase, no mill can continue to operate unless all departments are manned properly. There are two sources from which people to man these departments adequately may come—namely, Southbridge and outside of Southbridge. We are told that the Hamilton Woolen Co. has been very reluctant to consider the applications for employment of people who are not residents of Southbridge as it prefers to have these jobs filled by Southbridge people. However, if these jobs are not filled immediately by local people, the mill management will be forced to hire people from other communities.

Protection Promised

"The M. & M. believes that there are employees, probably a considerable number, who would like to return to work but who have not done so because of the fear of possible injury to themselves, their families, and possible damage to their homes and property. To this group of people, the M. & M. considers it to be its duty to point out that, under the law, every person has the right to work and that he is entitled to and shall receive whatever protection the exercise of that right demands.

"Fortunately for Southbridge, the machinery for this protection, which rests with the Board of Selectmen, is in the capable and

willing hands of men who have seen their duty and who have done it well, ably aided by an alert and efficient police force. The M. & M. has been assured by the Board of Selectmen that it is its intent to continue in effect the fullest measure of protection to the citizens of Southbridge and their property. The M. & M. also has been assured that if additional protection is required, it will be secured promptly by the Selectmen.

"Therefore, any citizen who feels that his safety, even on the public street, and that of his family and home is endangered should communicate with the Police Chief or any member of the Board of Selectmen and prompt measures will be taken to provide the necessary protection.

Continuance Necessary

"While the M. & M. deplors the possible necessity of going outside our community to fill positions which could be filled by Southbridge people, it believes nevertheless that the interests of the many take precedence over the desires of the few. The M. & M. believes that the interests of the community, and of the large number of people now working at the Hamilton Woolen Co. demand that the M. & M. strongly urge the management of the Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc., to use every means at its command to insure continued operation of this vitally necessary industry."

There was no picketing at the mill today although union officials charged some employees were at work despite the statement of the company the plant would be closed until Monday for the annual year-end inventory. The union claimed partial operation of the mill was in violation of good faith.

Submits Findings

They indicated they expected early settlement of the strike as a result of conferences Tuesday with Miss Anna Weinstock, field representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, both by union officials and the plant management.

Miss Weinstock was understood today to have submitted her findings for action.

Union leaders said they hoped the strike would be settled Monday or early in the week.

They expect, however, to resume picketing Monday at 5:45 a. m., an hour before the plant opens, if there has been no conciliation of differences.

There were no holiday disturbances reported to police, who found no trouble here today.

Charges are Filed

Two strikers were arraigned in District court here today. John Breize, 45, of School st., was charged with disturbance and drunkenness and Leo Morin, 22, of 10 Fisk st., was charged with intimidation of an employee, disturbance and malicious destruction of property.

Both complaints against Breize were ordered filed. Morin was found not guilty on charges of destroying property and disturbance and was fined \$5 on the intimidation charge. He appealed and furnished bail of \$25 for his appearance before the Superior court during the session beginning Monday.

Breize was arrested Nov. 15 in the yard of his home by State Troopers and local police. Witnesses for the prosecution said they were patrolling School st. following the stoning of a home on that street.

Had Two Drinks

They said they turned in the driveway of the Breize home when they saw a light in the rear of the house. As they were investigating Breize came out of his house, it was testified, and stood against the police car. He was drunk and was swearing, police said.

Breize said the police car had been driven up on the grass in his yard and said he went out and asked what they were doing there. He said he had had only two drinks of beer and was not drunk. He denied he swore.

Morin was arrested after the stoning of the home of George Laplante at 144 Fisk st., manager of the Hamilton A. A. football team. State Trooper Theodore Stronach told the court he, with other State and local officers, was called to the scene of the stoning and saw Morin walking down Fisk st. with his wife, Mrs. Albina Morin.

Says He Was Threatened

Mrs. Laplante and Mrs. Diana Tremblay, Mrs. Laplant's mother, both said Morin was the one who did the stoning. Laplante said Morin had threatened him in the picket line the day before.

Taking the stand in his own defense, Morin said he had gone to the home of his wife's father, Alfred Morin, of 158 Fisk st., at 6 p. m. that day and had not left the house until he started for home and was arrested, shortly after 8 p. m. His wife, Alfred Morin, and Mrs. Alfred Morin corroborated his testimony.

Robert Paranto, 12, of 187 Fisk st., who said he heard the sound of the windows being broken as he walked up the street, asserted he saw Mr. and Mrs. Leo Morin on the piazza of the Alfred Morin home immediately afterward.

Both defendants were represented by Atty. William W. Buckley.

Cases Continued

The cases of John Pelloch, 38, of 29 Clarke st., and Patrick Shea, 52, of 115 Hamilton st., both charged Nov. 14 with drunkenness in the vicinity of the Hamilton buildings, and Homer Anger, 31, of 22 Robert st., and Henry Champigny, 37, of 19 Walcott st., arrested on the same day on disturbance charges, were continued until later today.

All four are at liberty under bail of \$50 each.

Officials of the Hamilton local of the U. T. W. said today they were unaware of the alleged picketing of a dance hall in West Warren for a short time Wednesday night by textile workers from Southbridge, Ludlow and Warren.

A Southbridge orchestra was playing in the hall and heads of the group claimed the orchestra leader was a strike breaker who was employed at the local woolen company.

The engagement was cancelled by the management at the last minute but an all-night frolic scheduled for the hall ended shortly before midnight because of the tense feeling which had existed earlier in the night.

The pickets promised to return tomorrow night when they learned the orchestra was scheduled to make another appearance.

Alarm Grows As Strikes In Area Continue

State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration to Meet Strike Leaders and Management of Stevens Linen Mill in Webster Monday; Town Assessor Nabbed

CHARGE HIS ARREST IS POLITICAL PLAY

Webster Fears Out-of-Town Strike Leaders Have Confused the Minds of Strikers on Issues Of Utmost Importance to Themselves and Others

News Staff Writer

WEBSTER, Dec. 1—Peace reigned on the strike front in this town today as 375 persons who walked out of the Stevens Linen Mill earlier in the week and officials of the company prepared for a joint meeting Monday of union leaders and the mill management with the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The strike at the Stevens mill bears a close similarity to that at the Hamilton Woolen Co. in Southbridge. In each case union members allege discrimination after the settlement of the national textile strike in September.

Officials of the Hamilton and Stevens plants are opposed to a closed shop. They are competing in an open market with other textile mills which have not signed union contracts and to remain in business must be able to produce goods at no greater expense than do their competitors.

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration was in Webster yesterday to investigate. Its members will meet with union officials and the mill management Monday and try to arrive at a settlement.

Also attending Monday's meeting will be a committee from the Slater Mill in East Webster where workers are reported to hold grievances which may result in a strike the early part of the week.

Picketing at the Stevens plant seemed an amusing twist yesterday

when State police arrested Victor Billings, chairman of the Dudley Board of Assessors, on a charge of disturbance. Troopers said he refused to move when ordered. Billings staunchly denied the charge, saying he merely had stopped to talk to a taxpayer.

Politics is Charge

Most persons today agreed Billings was arrested because the State police, caring little for personalities, insist that their word be law in the vicinity of the picket lines, but his friends see political play behind the "injustice."

The citizens of Webster, as in Southbridge, are alarmed at the prospect of losing one of their principal industries. If the strike continues with attendant violence the management has said it will close down indefinitely. That the company means what it says is fairly clear when one recalls that only pleading by public-spirited citizens with officials persuaded them to reopen the mill after the national strike had been settled.

Strikers Confused

Another cause of alarm in Webster is the fear that out-of-town strike leaders are confusing the minds of strikers on issues which are of the utmost seriousness both to themselves and to the community.

A Citizens' committee, comprised of clergymen and other professional men, is striving to bring together the two parties in the Stevens strike. To date they have had little success, other than to arrange for a meeting between the strikers and management with the State board.

Meanwhile, as Christmas approaches, Webster merchants are showing much concern for their sales in December—the best month of the year for the retail business.

The Stevens mill normally employs 750 persons.

Two Local Men Appeal Walkout Fines of \$5

Homer Anger, 31, of 22 Robert st., and Henry Champigny, 37, of 19 Walcott st., arrested here Nov. 14 on charges of disturbing the peace in connection with strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co., were at liberty today under bail of \$15 each pending the outcome of their appeal of fines of \$5 imposed yesterday in District court.

Judge Louis O. Rientord fixed bond at \$15 after a special session of District court in which he fined each man \$5 on the disturbance counts.

Miss Anna Weinstock Shrewsbury, field representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, is expected to file her report on local conditions with the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration in Boston next Monday. Miss Weinstock has conferred with both the woolen company management and union leaders to obtain their views on the strike.

There were no disturbances last night or today because of the shutdown at the mill. Picketing will be resumed Monday, however.

State Will Try Wednesday To Settle Walkout

Decision to Come to Southbridge Follows Report
Delivered by Miss Weinstock, Field Agent For
National Textile Labor Relations Body

POLICE ARREST PICKET AT MILL TODAY

Mrs. Agnes Slota Granted Continuance Until Next
Monday on Disturbance Charge; Developments
In Hamilton Strike Few During Weekend

Edward Fisher of Lowell, chairman of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, announced today from his Boston office the board would come to Southbridge Wednesday to make another effort to settle the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co. The walkout of union employees is now in its third week.

Mr. Fisher's decision to bring the board to Southbridge followed a report filed today by Miss Anna Weinstock, field investigator for the National Textile Labor Relations Board. The context of the report which Miss Weinstock gave the State board was not revealed. Miss Weinstock conferred with the management of the woolen company and leaders of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America last Tuesday.

The State board said it would arrive here at 10 a. m. and begin immediate conferences at Town hall with both parties involved in the strike.

A woman, Mrs. Agnes Slota, 37, of 62 Union st., on picket duty at the Hamilton Woolen Co. when it re-opened today for the first time since Wednesday, was arrested by State police on a disturbance charge.

Police charged Mrs. Slota was shouting in a loud voice as workers entered the gates this morning. Her case was continued in First District court by Judge Louis O. Rientord to next Monday.

There were few weekend developments in the strike situation at

the local mill although efforts were made to settle the walkout amicably.

Two hundred pickets were at the plant when it opened at 6:45 a. m., the number being augmented at noon.

Officials of the company said 603 persons were on the firm's payroll today, an increase of 31 over Wednesday's total of 572.

An effort was made Saturday night to further the organization of employees of the American Optical Co. into a union but apparently was a failure. It was indicated no AO workers attended the meeting.

Move to Transfer \$3,000 To Police Defeated By Strikers at Meeting

ONLY 300 PRESENT
Promise Police Will Supply
Full Protection in The
Case of Emergency

Refusal of strikers to permit the transfer of \$3,000 from the interest account to the Police department budget at the special Town meeting in Town hall last night was checkmated later when the Board of Selectmen officially declared an emergency to exist, thus permitting expenditure of public funds without sanction from the voters at a Town meeting.

The board said the \$3,000, required because of the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co., would be listed as a Police department overdraft in the warrant for the annual business meeting of the Town next March and that the money would be appropriated at that time by the voters.

Members of the board said that despite the action of the strikers at last night's meeting, they would be given full protection by the Police department should any emergency arise which required intervention by local authorities.

To be Neutral

The board made it clear it was non-partisan in the strike and would afford police protection to strikers and workers alike if personal or property damage were imminent.

The \$3,000 which the board sought in the transfer from the interest account was for the expenses of local police and not State troopers.

The transfer of the \$3,000 was the only item which was blocked at the meeting last night. When Moderator Wilfred J. Lamoureux asked if there were any objections to the transfer, a chorus of noes followed. Mr. Lamoureux then asked for a show of hands on the question and the measure was defeated by a wide margin.

300 Attend

About 300 persons attended the meeting.

Under Article 2, calling for the appropriation of \$2,236.88 to meet bills still outstanding from the construction of Worcester st. in 1933, the Finance committee offered a substitute motion after having recommended previously that new money be raised.

The substitute motion, introduced by Ira Mosher, chairman of the committee, asked for the transfer of the necessary money from the interest account. The substitute measure was passed without dissent.

Mr. Mosher explained that to raise new money for the Worcester st. bills would require an emergency loan and added he felt the transfer was advisable as a means of checking an increase in the tax rate next year.

Sums Transferred

Sums transferred by Article 1 were:

For outside relief in the Public Welfare department, \$3,000 from the old-age assistance budget, \$2,700 from mothers' aid and \$2,900 from soldiers' relief; for the Selectmen's account, \$100 from military aid funds; for the water and ice account, \$58.64 from the military aid budget;

For the ERA, \$468 of which will be for administrative expenses at the disbursing office and the administration's headquarters and \$2,875.67 for materials and equipment, \$2,840.07 from the insurance account and \$503.60 from the reserve fund; for the Highway department, \$136.47 from the insurance account, \$275.41 from military aid funds, \$200 from the soldiers' burial budget, \$129.47 from the Chapin st. sidewalk account, \$730.42 from the Everett st. sidewalk account, \$1,096.28 from the Mechanic st. sidewalk account, \$131.95 from the fund to pay for damage to persons and property, and \$300 from the election and registration budget.

Reports of the Selectmen on the widening and re-location of intersections at Mechanic and Charlton sts. and Union and Oliver sts. were accepted.

Emergency Cited By Selectmen to Permit Expenses for Strike

Second Arrest of Week
Made This Morning
At Hamilton Co.

AWAIT STATE BOARD
Strike Will Enter Fourth
Week Tomorrow; Hope
For Truce is Held

The second arrest of the week followed a demonstration by pickets at the Hamilton Woolen Co. as strikers and the mill management today awaited the arrival of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration at 10 a. m. tomorrow, which will make another effort to settle the walkout.

State Trooper Noone arrested Bronislaw Sas, 25, of 957 Main st., shortly before 7 a. m. today as workers were entering the plant. Police said he was shouting at employees and took him into custody on a charge of disturbing the peace.

He was admitted to bail of \$25 for arraignment in District court tomorrow. Bond was furnished by Joseph Liro, Pleasant st. merchant, who has given the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America use of his store as relief headquarters for the distribution of food to needy families who are participating in the walkout.

The strike will enter its fourth week late tomorrow afternoon unless a settlement is reached among the striking union employees, the company, and the State board prior to that time.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, said today she had not been informed whether Joseph Sylvia, New England organizer of the U. T. W. A., or Ira Dickens, the central Massachusetts organizer, would be present at the conferences with the State board in Town hall tomorrow.

Other than the one arrest today, there were no disorders at the mill.

The company reported 624 were on its payroll today, an increase of 21 over yesterday's total of 603. About 150 persons were in the picket line this morning.

Union heads said they had not made a recent check to determine their estimate of the number being given employment at the plant.

Strike Settlement Expected This Afternoon

News — Dec 5 '34

Union Leaders, Employers In Session With State Board at Town Hall

GROUNDWORK LAID

Fisher Optimistic Dispute Will be Ended Before Late Afternoon

Edward Fisher, chairman of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, which came here today to attempt a settlement of the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co., said this afternoon he believed the groundwork for conciliation of differences had been laid. He was highly optimistic the labor dispute could be settled before the board returned to Boston late this afternoon or tonight.

The board conferred from 11 a. m. to 1:30 p. m. with all parties interested in the walkout and then adjourned for lunch.

State Expects To Move Again To End Strike

Arbitrators Promise to Return During Afternoon To Continue Efforts to Reach Peace Pact; Union Ballots Unanimously to Prolong Walkout

RETURN OF ALL STRIKERS SEEN AS SNAG

Union Shop Issue Reported Fading; Board Believes Progress Effected Despite Deadlock; Hamilton Local Willing 'to Stay Out All Winter'

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, balked yesterday in an effort to settle the union walkout at the Hamilton Woolen Co., was prepared to return to Southbridge this afternoon to make another attempt to bring the strikers and management together.

The board reported when it left Southbridge at 7:30 p. m. yesterday it felt it had made progress toward a conciliation of differences and said it hoped a definite settlement could be reached today.

Although the board did not say so and confirmation could not be gained from either the strikers or woolen company officials, reports persisted negotiations had broken down when the union demanded that all strikers be restored to their former positions. The company was understood to have refused to accede, claiming it owed something to employees who had been transferred from the night shift to the day shift in order that production might not be crippled, and that they should retain their present positions.

Reports also gained wide circulation that the union shop issue had been eliminated as a major stumbling block. The closed shop was the principal issue which prevented a settlement of the strike when the State board was here Nov. 19, five days after the walkout had been called.

Mr. Fisher's statement he believed the strike could be settled, followed the board's adjournment. He described the conference which began this morning as amicable.

Parley Resumed

The board resumed its conference at 2:15 p. m., the session being held again in Town hall.

Mr. Fisher said all issues involved in a settlement of the walkout had not been discussed during the first conference but indicated virtual agreement had been reached on the differences. He did not reveal, however, what the issues were.

The other demands were scheduled for discussion this afternoon and unless a sharp break develops in the harmony which prevailed at the first parley, the expected end of the strike may be reached before 6 p. m.

Firm Represented

Representing the woolen company at the conference were Richard Lennihan, president of the firm; Ross G. Walker, the concern's treasurer, and B. Loring Young, general counsel for the company and a director. Mr. Young is a former speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

The entire body of union officials, headed by Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America, was present.

Joseph Sylvia of Pawtucket, R. I., New England organizer for the U. T. W. A., and Ira Dickens of Worcester, the union's central Massachusetts organizer, also attended the conference.

The Board of Selectmen and Miss Anna Weinstock of Shrewsbury, field representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, likewise were invited to the parley.

The conference began at 11 a. m. in Memorial hall in the municipal building, an hour after the State board arrived. The meeting was delayed somewhat because of the late arrival of Mr. Young from Boston, where he has the office of Federal referee in bankruptcy.

Picketing was resumed at the mill at 5:45 a. m. today and continued until after the company's employees had entered to begin the day's work.

The pickets returned before noon and continued their slow march while their leaders were at Town hall voicing their demands in the attempted settlement of the walkout, which was to enter its fourth week shortly after 4 p. m. today. ***

was understood to have become a minor demand.

Vote Continuance

A union meeting was held in Pilsudski hall following the departure of the State board. The session lasted until 1 a. m. today and Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America, said the strikers had voted unanimously to continue the walkout. She estimated that more than 600 persons had thronged the hall for the meeting.

She denied reports the Hamilton local had wired Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Emergency Relief administrator at Washington, D. C., telling him Town officials had refused to grant aid to the strikers.

She said relief was being sent here from New York and other points and added strikers "were willing to stay out all winter if necessary."

Relief Forwarded

A check for \$100 for relief purposes was understood to have been received yesterday through Powers Hapgood, who said when he was arrested here Nov. 26 for refusing to move that he had been sent to Southbridge by the Central Labor Union of Worcester, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, to organize the American Optical Co.

The company reported today 667 persons were on its payroll, an increase of 18 over yesterday's total of 649. Reports were prevalent that some of those who were added to the payroll today were strikers who had decided to return to work following yesterday's deadlock of peace negotiations.

Miss Gauthier estimated today, however, there were only between 250 and 300 persons working in the plant.

Denies Desertion

She said none had quit the early morning picket line today to go into the mill. Rumor spread yesterday four pickets had abandoned their marching before the plant to resume their jobs.

About 150 pickets were at the plant this noon and only a handful of spectators were in the vicinity to watch the activity.

The strikers were aided in presenting their demands yesterday

The company reported today there were 649 on its payroll, an increase of 25 over yesterday's total of 624. Today's reported increase brought the week's advance in the number employed to 77. There were 572 on the payroll when the mill closed a week ago today for Thanksgiving and the annual year-end inventory. Work was resumed Monday.

Bronislaw Sas, 25, of 957 Main st., arrested yesterday morning by State Trooper Noone for disturbing the peace, was fined \$5 in District court today. He appealed and his bond of \$25, posted by Joseph Liro, Pleasant st. merchant, was continued for his appearance in Superior court, Worcester.

Special Correspondence

DUDLEY, Dec. 5.—State police today expected to arrest six men for an assault on Carl Haven, 20, a former pupil at Wells High school in Southbridge who now is employed at the Stevens Linen mill and resides in the Quinebaug section of this town.

Mr. Haven told troopers he was assaulted and stripped to the waist by six men who attacked him shortly after he had left his home at 9 p. m. yesterday to walk to Webster. He said a car containing the six men neared him while he still was in a remote section of Dudley. The sextet emerged from the machine and began the attack, one of the blows knocking the youth unconscious.

The former Wells pupil, who attended the Southbridge school about three years ago, gave troopers descriptions of his assailants and police expected to locate them today. ***

by Horace Riviere of Pawtucket, R. I., fourth international vice-president of the U. T. W. A., who arrived at Town hall about 5 p. m.

He was given opportunity to express his views by the State board.

Management Departs
The mill management, represented by Richard Lennihan, president of the company; Ross G. Walker, treasurer of the firm; James T. Sutcliffe, superintendent, and B. Loring Young, counsel for the concern, left at 4:30 p. m., half an hour before Mr. Riviere's arrival.

Yesterday was the first time Mr. Riviere has come to Southbridge since the walkout was called.

Neither the firm nor union leaders would comment on the conference held yesterday, leaving any statement to be made to Edward Fisher of Lowell, chairman of the State board.

Mr. Fisher said when he left he was satisfied progress toward conciliation had been made as a result of the conferences, which lasted nearly eight hours.

Visits Ludlow

He said the board had to be in Ludlow to arbitrate a strike there this morning but would come to Southbridge in the afternoon. He did not set a precise hour for the board's arrival at Town hall for a continuance of efforts to reach peace.

Other union representatives at the parleys yesterday were officers of the Hamilton local, Joseph Sylvia, New England U. T. W. A. organizer, and Ira Dickens, who holds a similar position in the central Massachusetts subdivision.

In addition to Miss Anna Weinstock, field representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, who investigated conditions here Nov. 27, Federal authorities were represented by J. Edward Robinson, an agent of the National Labor Relations Board.

7 Men Given 3 Months For Stoning of House; Hopes for Truce Fade

Union's Vice-President Is Among Those Held; Cases Appealed

5 FROM W. WARREN Strike Disorders Mount As State Board Fails To Settle Walkout

Edward Bellavance, 47, of Fisk st., charged with throwing tacks on Mill st., was found guilty in District court this afternoon and sentenced to one month in the House of Correction. He appealed and was held under \$100 bail.

A heavy crop of arrests, including that of Paul Vermiere, 27, of 43 School st., vice-president of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America, followed a series of disorders which broke out here yesterday when the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration failed to appear to attempt again to settle the 23-day-old strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co.

Two shots were fired in the air to signal for assistance as a revolver was drawn for the first time during the walkout, two workers were assaulted, a Town policeman was forced to fight his way clear of a gang of eight men, a worker's home was stoned, a section of his fence torn down, and 14 men, five of them from West Warren, were arrested in the most violent outbreak here since the strike at the woolen company was called Nov. 14.

Drop Peace Attempts

The heavy docket at District court caused Judge Louis O. Rientord to abandon hearings shortly after noon today and to convene another session at 2 p. m.

Officials of the woolen company apparently have dropped attempts at conciliation, although high officers of the firm were not in Southbridge today to give confirmation.

The company said today its payroll had increased to 669, an advance of two over yesterday's total of 667.

Seven men, including Vermiere, were arraigned in court this morning for the stoning of a house owned by Aristide Asselin at 92 Cross st. Mr. Asselin is employed as a watchman at the woolen company.

All Appeal Cases

All seven were charged with destruction of property and disturbing the peace. They were sentenced to two months each on the former count and one month on the second. All appealed and were held in bail of \$200 on the destruction charge and \$100 on the disturbance count for appearance at the January session of Superior court.

None of the seven had been able to procure bondsmen early this afternoon and were detained in Town jail.

Those sentenced in addition to Vermiere were: Joseph Mendolusky, 27; William Masterman, 23; Romeo Guerin, 24, and his brother, Edgar Guerin, 21, and Frank Bish, all of West Warren, and Stephen Damian, 25, of 369 Main st., Southbridge.

They entered not guilty pleas to the charges.

Mr. Asselin testified he and Norman King, both of whom are deputized as special officers, were on guard inside his (Mr. Asselin's) home shortly before 9 p. m. yesterday when they noticed several men walk up and down Cross st. and then return.

Prepared for Trouble

Mr. Asselin indicated threats had been made against him but the assertion was expunged from the record by order of the court.

He said he and Mr. King prepared for trouble just before the house was showered with stones. Both ran for the porch, summoning Mr. Asselin's son, Louis, 19, as they passed through the door.

The witness said he and Mr. King chased the group which allegedly threw the stones toward Union st., where State police were lying in wait. He said he fired two shots over his head as a signal he needed help. The troopers trapped the fleeing men and lined them up against a wall preparatory to bringing them to police headquarters to be booked.

The son said Mendolusky dashed between two houses as he fled. The son testified he followed him and that Mendolusky apparently believed he was one of the group which stoned the house. They hid for a while, he said, and then emerged again on Cross st. As they passed a State police cruising car, young Asselin said he seized Mendolusky and held him until the officers arrived.

Identifies Both Men

State Trooper Walter J. McDonnell prosecuted for the State and said he heard the shots. He said he responded when he heard the two reports from the revolver and identified both Guerins, Bish and Masterman as those who were racing along Cross st.

Mr. Asselin asked to identify the defendants, included Joseph Wrobel of Pomfret, Conn., who is expected to be charged with drunken driving in a case not connected with the strike, as one of the men he saw.

Trooper McDonnell told the court the four men he identified admitted last night when they were locked up they had thrown stones. A later checkup showed four windows were broken and a section of the porch railing had been smashed.

The State patrolmen said Damian and Vermiere, the two local men held in connection with the stoning, told him they had driven the West Warren residents to Cross st. and that they "had an idea" of what was going to happen.

Suspicious Aroused

Trooper McDonnell testified he saw the two cars parked on Cross st. with the curtains drawn and lights switched off, a combination of circumstances which caused him to remain in the vicinity in anticipation of trouble.

State Trooper Joseph T. Donahue, called to the stand, said Mendolusky had admitted at the scene he was among the party and then denied it at the Police station.

Mendolusky was the only defense witness called. He said he was walking along Cross st. toward Hamilton st., where he had heard he could get something to eat in a restaurant, when the shots were fired.

He said he was questioned by Lieut. Harry Avery, in active charge of the State police detachment here, and then taken to the police garage in the basement at headquarters.

He testified he was hit in the eye by State Trooper James T.

Brennan and stumbled, injuring his knee when it came in contact with a metal barrel. He added a State police sergeant, whose name he did not know, had told McDonnell to turn out the lights. He claimed the sergeant shoved him into a corner after daring him to fight.

Denies Hitting Mendolusky

He said he was taken to headquarters at 8 p. m., and was not locked in a cell for the second and final time until midnight.

Atty. William W. Buckley, who conducted the defense, waived examination of all State witnesses, although he charged troopers had attempted to intimidate Mendolusky.

Trooper Brennan, placed on the stand by Judge Rientord, denied he had hit the West Warren man and said Mendolusky had not fallen. He said he had asked only routine questions of the defendant.

Police today were searching for a man named "Hevey" for questioning in connection with assault on two woolen company workers yesterday afternoon shortly after the plant had closed at 3:30 p. m.

The two men assaulted were Trefle Davieau, a resident of Globe Village, and Lionel Dupre, of Sayles st.

One arrest was made in connection with the assault, police having taken Albert Lavallee, 43, of 62 Lovely st., into custody on two counts of assault and battery. His arraignment had started when court was adjourned until 2 p. m.

Two Gangs Assembled

Police Chief Ulric Brault and Officers Arthur Butler and John Miller were cruising through Globe Village in a patrol car when they noticed a fight at Union and Main sts.

Two gangs had assembled, they said. Officer Miller jumped from the car and raced toward one group and Patrolman Butler headed for the other.

Officer Butler found Mr. Dupre on the ground, having been knocked unconscious by a blow. He did not recover his faculties until an hour later, police said.

Officer Butler told the court he went toward one group to arrest the man named "Hevey" and Lavallee. As he entered the cluster of men, one shouted, he said, "Get that cop." He said he was obliged to draw his club and fight his way clear of the gang, which he said numbered eight men. He chased "Hevey" down Union and Oliver sts. but the fugitive made good his escape.

Police claim they know the man who fled and reported today he had not returned to his house since the melee.

Arrested at Home

Lavallee was arrested later at his home.

Julius Szugda, 51, of Woodstock rd., was arrested on Mill st. yesterday by State police as workers left the plant and was charged with refusing to move when ordered and drunkenness. The first count was filed but he was fined \$5 when arraigned on the second charge.

Others who were to face Judge Rientord this afternoon were Armand Beausoleil, 18, of Sturbridge, charged with assault and battery; Raoul Dusseault, 18, of 110 Pine st., held on the same charge; Antonio Bertrand, 27, of 34 Plimpton st., who is charged with assault, and Edward Bellavance, 47, of Fisk st., who was arrested by police today.

Joseph Lapare, 18, of 107 Plimpton st., who was charged by police with throwing rocks at workers as they left for their homes yesterday, also was scheduled for arraignment this afternoon.

Police promised more arrests would follow as a result of yesterday's outbreaks.

Mrs. Mary Donovan Hapgood, wife of Powers Hapgood of Brookfield, who attempted to organize employees at the American Optical Co. last week, was a spectator in the courtroom. She said another effort would be made to form a union at the AO but gave no indication as to when a meeting would be called.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Hamilton Woolen Co. strikers turned out at a special town meeting Monday night and voted against the article asking for \$3000 for the police department to pay special police since the strike began on November 14.

J. Edouard Demers, chairman of the selectmen, stated following the meeting that the special \$10,000 appropriation in the hands of the finance committee is now down to \$500.

The selectmen declared an emergency exists and these bills will be paid promptly.

At the meeting \$17,339.19 was transferred from some departments to others.

The transfers follow: \$3000 from Old Age fund; \$2700 from mothers' aid; \$2900 from soldiers' relief; \$100 from military aid; \$58.64 from water and ice; \$2840.07 from interest account and \$503.60 from reserve account to the ERA, \$468 for administrative purposes and \$2875.67 for materials and truck hire; from insurance account, \$136.47; military aid \$275.41; soldiers' burial, \$200; Chapin street sidewalk, \$129.47; Everett street sidewalk, \$730.42; Mechanic street sidewalk, \$1096.28; damage to persons and property, \$131.95, and election and registration \$300; making a total of \$300 transferred to the highway department. It was voted to pay \$2236.88 outstanding bills on the Worcester street road job, this amount being taken from the interest account. The report of the selectmen as to the relocation of Mechanic and Charlton streets and also Oliver and Union streets was accepted without debate.

Seventeen Mill Strikers Under Arrest

More to be Booked Today Following Noisy Demonstration Last Evening

Local and Police Officers Quell Attack on Workers

A violent flare up of strikers and sympathizers yesterday afternoon at 4.45 o'clock caused more excitement than anything that has happened during the several weeks of disturbance at Globe Village, where strikers made demonstrations in the vicinity of the mill very frequently.

Workers attacked at the corner of Main and Union streets last evening brought on a spectacular demonstration. Officers Butler and Miller who were nearby saw men attacked and went to their assistance. This precipitated a general conflict in which many were involved, but the officers came out of it with some of the men they went in to get and others will be arrested today according to the report. The state police and local officers worked quickly.

Seventeen arrests were made altogether as a result of the melee.

How many more are to be brought in by the officers is uncertain, but several names are on the list.

For the first time since the strike the bailing officer last night raised his price for his work. This had some effect, as it resulted in a number of those under arrest being locked up instead of as heretofore getting out on bail.

Contrary to published reports there were no shots fired in last evening's flare up, and no one was seriously hurt.

The demonstration might be described as a fist fight which took on the aspect of a mob milling around aimlessly. Radicals from West Warren and other mill towns joined with the local strikers, and they are among those who were lodged in the police station. They had beaten up men,

broke windows and otherwise destroyed property.

Meanwhile the mill is running fairly well with about 700 hands back at work and more applying. The company is putting the help back as everything is getting back into full swing. The strikers, have tacitly, if not formally given up the open shop demand, upon which hinged all their efforts heretofore, and now, it is reported the new demand is that they be given back their old jobs and that those who have been hired since the beginning of the strike be discharged in favor of the strikers. This presents about as troublesome a demand as the closed shop question, so it appears.

Arrests followed later in the night when the home of Peter Asselin, 92 Cross street, a worker at the mill, was surrounded, 20 feet of fence torn down and several windows broken. Arrested were Romeo Guerlin and Joseph Mendnonlnuski of West Warren. They were charged with disturbance. Several others were taken into custody by state and local police near the home and after questioning were allowed to go.

Later the police arrested more in connection with the disturbance at the Asselin home. One of them was Paul Vermeire, 27, of 43 School street, vice president of the Hamilton Local, U. T. W. union. He is charged with destroying property and disturbance. The others arrested were Stephen Damian, 25, of 79 Pleasant street and Frank Bish, 23, of 10 Highland st. They were booked on the same charges. State police made the arrests after investigating the stoning of the Asselin home.

M & M Association Deplores Hamilton Strike

Special Meeting Held To Discuss Situation

Effect On Community Considered Very Grave

There was an overflow meeting of the M. & M. Association at Hotel Columbia last Friday, called especially to see how the Association could aid in what the entire community feels is a public duty, namely settlement of the textile strike that has disrupted the business of the town and caused the deepest concern.

Daniel P. Bernheim, president of the Association, in opening the meeting stated clearly and in a most interesting way the status of the trouble at that moment, and closing asked for expressions of opinion from those present. Several of the members spoke, suggesting ideas, all bearing on the subject in hand. All who spoke dwelt upon the gravity of the situation and what the community was losing and still further what it stood to lose by a continuation of the strike. Those present were unanimous in deploring the strike and affirming their readiness to do all that could be done in the circumstances.

The following statement, issued after the meeting sums up the sentiments of the Association:—

"Two weeks have now elapsed since the walkout of some of the employees of the Hamilton Co. If the differences now existing are not adjusted and the situation is not rapidly cleared up immediate widespread unemployment will result in Southbridge because of the loss of present and future orders for merchandise. Failure to promptly settle this situation may mean the eventual loss to Southbridge of an industry employing about 1000 of our people and disbursing in payroll about a million dollars annually.

"While the number of workers has

shown a daily increase, no mill can continue to operate unless all departments are properly manned. There are two sources from which people to adequately man these departments may come—namely, Southbridge and outside of Southbridge. We are told that the Hamilton Co. has been very reluctant to consider the applications for employment of people who are not residents of Southbridge as it prefers to have these jobs filled by Southbridge people. However, if these jobs are not filled immediately by local people the mill management will be forced to hire people from other communities.

"The M. & M. believes that there are employees, probably a considerable number, who would like to return to work but who have not done so because of the fear of possible injury to themselves, their families, and possible damage to their homes and property. To this group of people the M. & M. considers it to be its duty to point out that, under the law, every person has the right to work and that he is entitled to and shall receive whatever protection the exercise of that right demands.

"While the M. & M. deplors the possible necessity of going outside our community to fill positions which could be filled by Southbridge people, it believes nevertheless that the interests of the many take precedence over the desires of the few. The M. & M. believes that the interests of the community, and of the large number of people now working at the Hamilton Co. to use every means at their command to insure continued operation of this vitally necessary industry."

'Battle to End,' Union Asserts After Stoning

THE "STRETCH-OUT"

What is the "stretch-out"? The word has a sinister sound. It hints at a placing of human workers on a rack for merciless exploitation for the sake of increased dividends. Various labor leaders have adroitly exploited the term for their own purposes.

But is the stretch-out in fact what it has been represented to be? It is not a method to compel labor to do more work for less pay. It is not a new thing, although the public hardly heard of it until the term came to general attention after the adoption of the code and during the strike. The stretch-out is not a system applied in a single industry; it exists in industry in general. Many assume that a great humanitarian reform would ensue on its abolition, whereas for one thing no administrative order could abolish it over night, and for another the plan has been in use in many industries for a long period, and is universally accepted as a concomitant of human, and humane, progress.

The adoption of the stretch-out does not mean necessarily any decrease in the number of persons employed in any plant, although it does mean an increase in the number of machines assigned to a single operative. When correctly interpreted, the stretch-out means simply that the principles of scientific management have been applied to the operation of an industrial plant. As it happens, right here in Massachusetts there are textile workers who say the stretch-out has provided them with the easiest and most agreeable jobs they have ever had, and in the South there are labor leaders who not only are content with, but are proud of, what the system has done for them.

Undeniably there have been abuses, especially in the South, in the installation of the stretch-out. These are to be regarded as incidental and transitory rather than permanent and inherent. There is the warrant of honest and idealistic experts for stating that cases of the abuse rather than the use of the stretch-out do not cover more than 10 per cent. of the textile industry. The fact is that every mill almost is a case by itself. The problem of application contains many variables, as differences in raw material, humidity, machine types and adjustments. Most cases of abuse have arisen from disregard of the necessity of patient study in advance to determine what is a fair workload for machines and operatives. The stretch-out cannot be successfully introduced in a day by simple fiat.

But—what is the stretch-out? Assume a large cotton textile plant in the South into which improved methods are to be introduced. The correct thing would be to study every machine, and report on its defects in minute detail. The management should wait perhaps two years to establish mutual relations of good will and confidence with the workers. There should follow a conference for the explanation of all contemplated changes. For instance, skilled weavers would be separated from unskilled tasks in connection with their looms. Specialization would be the rule. If for decades one weaver had operated twenty-four looms he would be asked to run four times that number, by consent of the workers, and with the understanding that after fair trial they might if they chose go back again to twenty-four.

A fancy picture? Precisely that has been done in southern mills, resulting in more money, more contentment, and more ease for the workers, and better and larger production. There are unionized mills in the South that throughout the depression and the strike have run on this plan without a shutdown. The stretch-out accounts for it.

Unidentified Persons Hurl 2 Rocks Through Window Of Miss Gauthier's Apartment; Hamilton Local Head Blames Plant Employes for Episode

LEADER DENIES PLANS TO QUIT POSITION

'They Can't Scare Me,' Girl Says; Effort to Have State Police Removed Refuted; Men Sentenced Or Fined After Thursday Disorders Bailed

Unimpressed by two rocks which last night hurtled through a front window of her third-floor apartment at 658 Main st., Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America, said today she would continue to lead the union strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co.

"This is a fight to the finish and they can't scare me," Miss Gauthier said, when questioned about the stoning.

She denied reports the rocks had been thrown by strikers who were dissatisfied with her regime. She charged the stones had been hurled by workers at the woolen company.

Miss Gauthier likewise discounted rumors she would resign as head of the local.

All efforts to arbitrate the walkout, which occurred Nov. 14, were at a standstill today as the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration announced from Boston it would not return to Southbridge until requested by one of the strike parties.

The State board said it was awaiting developments in the walkout, giving rise to the opinion it could make no headway against the union demand that all strikers be returned to their jobs and the company's reported rejection of the issue.

Window Broken

Two large stones were hurled through Miss Gauthier's window shortly after 6 p. m. yesterday. Miss Gauthier reported the stoning to police immediately but no arrests were made, authorities having been unable to find anybody in the vicinity of the home. The union president, her mother, and a brother were in the apartment when the rocks were thrown.

Richard Lennihan, president of the woolen company, telephoned Miss Gauthier last night after he had learned of the stoning and volunteered to adjust personally any damage which had been caused.

Miss Gauthier said today the union already had made preparation to repair the damage when Mr. Lennihan called.

Meet Selectmen

A committee from the union last night met the Board of Selectmen in Town hall to discuss the strike situation but Miss Gauthier denied any request had been made to remove State troopers from Southbridge.

The stoning of Miss Gauthier's apartment was the only episode which marred the night. Police reported there were no disorders.

Judge Louis O. Rieutord, during an afternoon session of District court yesterday, granted a continuance to next Friday to Albert Lavallee, 43, of 62 Lovely st., who is charged with assault and battery on Trefle Davieau of Globe Village, and Lionel Dupre of Sayles st., while they were returning to their homes Thursday after having completed their work at the mill.

Bail was fixed at \$250 on each count of assault and battery.

Appeal Sentences

Antonio Bertrand, 27, of 34 Plimpton st., was fined \$5 for as-

sault and battery on Theodore Savary of 20 Robert st., a woolen company employe, the same day. He appealed and was released in \$25 bond for appearance in Superior court.

Assault and battery charges against Joseph Lepare, 18, of 107 Plimpton st., and Armand Beausoleil, 18, of Sturbridge, were dismissed but each was sentenced to one month in the House of Correction on counts of disturbing the peace. They appealed and bail was fixed at \$100 each.

Raoul Dusseault, 18, of 110 Pine st., also was sentenced to a month for disturbance of the peace and appealed. Bail was fixed at \$100. An assault charge against Dusseault was dismissed by the court.

In all, 12 of the 14 men arrested following the outbreaks of Thursday appealed their sentences or fines. Each of the 12 was able to procure bail before last night.

Vermiere Bailed

Among the first admitted to bail were the seven taken into custody for the stoning of the home of Aristide Asselin at 92 Cross st. Mr. Asselin is employed at the woolen company as a watchman.

Paul E. Vermiere, vice-president of the Hamilton local, was bailed by his mother. Stephen Damien, 25, of 969 Main st., the other local man arrested following the stoning, secured Joseph Liro, Pleasant st. merchant, as his bondsman.

Four men from West Warren, also found guilty in the stoning, were bailed by the father of one of the defendants, William Masterman. The fifth West Warren resident, Joseph Mendolusky, 27, was bailed by a man from the same town, who appeared with Mrs. Mary Donovan Hapgood, wife of Powers Hapgood, A. F. of L. organizer.

Bail in each of the seven cases was \$300.

There was no activity at the mill today, the plant having been closed for the weekend. Picketing is expected to be resumed Monday at 6 a. m.

Demand State Troopers Quit Strike Areas

State Federation of Labor in Sharp Letter to Ely Requests 'Strike Breaking' Constabulary Leave Southbridge, Dudley, Ludlow, and Other Centers

CHARGE PRIVATE BUSINESS IS SUBSIDIZED

Note Signed by Watt Says Troopers are Needed On Highways and to Prevent Crimes of Violence; Suggests Governor Replace Labor Officials

By United Press

BOSTON, Dec. 10—The Massachusetts State Federation of Labor today protested to Gov. Ely against the use of State Troopers as "strike breakers" in Southbridge, Dudley, Ludlow and other communities.

(Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, told The News Saturday that local strikers did not want State troopers to leave Southbridge until the strike here is settled.)

Gov. Ely was not at the State House today, and hence no comment was forthcoming.

"We protest against the diversion of public funds to subsidize private business in the violation of the textile strike agreement," read the letter, signed by Robert J. Watt, legislative agent for the federation.

"We realize that representations may have been made to you that the presence of the State police serve to maintain public order. If such representations were made we regret that no notice was afforded to citizens affected to present their side of the case before you ordered the State constabulary into action."

"When so many crimes of violence remain unsolved, when highway patrol is so essential for public safety, when a prominent citizen in a fashionable community has to telephone Washington for ordinary police protection to save his daughter from kidnapers, we believe that anyone who diverts normal police functions to assist mill owners in strike-breaking is guilty of misuse of the executive's authority and neglect of sworn responsibility.

"Your action is all the more peculiar when one realizes that there exists within the State Department of Labor and Industry a division of conciliation and arbitration which would seem to be the agency to whom the Governor would turn to secure a speedy settlement of industrial dispute. Of course, if such a division functions it is necessary for its officials to have the confidence or at least the tolerance of the two parties involved. It is because you feel that they are lacking in this essential that you turned instead to the hoofs of police horses to crush a strike?

"May we suggest that if you lack confidence in the Labor Department officials, whom you yourself selected, you would better serve your oath of office by replacing them with other officials in whom you and the people of this Commonwealth can have the needed trust."

"The Massachusetts State Federation of Labor requests you to restore respect in American institutions and in the Massachusetts brand of law and order by calling off the strike breaking troopers."

Progress to Arbitrate Strike is at Standstill

Work was resumed at the Hamilton Woolen Co. today after a quiet week-end which saw no

progress made toward settlement of the union strike will enter its fifth week late Wednesday afternoon.

Strikers resumed their picketing at 6 a. m. but temperatures in the vicinity of zero kept the number of marchers relatively low.

The company reported it had 680 persons on the payroll, an increase of 11 over the number on the firm's roster when the plant closed Friday afternoon.

Home Smeared

The only disorder during the chilly week-end was reported in Fiskdale where the recently-painted home of Wilfred Reeves, a Hamilton foreman, was smeared with black paint.

Authorities made no progress toward finding the persons who stoned the home of Miss Jean Gauthier at 658 Main st. last Friday night. Miss Gauthier is president of the Hamilton local of textile union.

Miss Gauthier said today she knew of no new developments in efforts to settle the walkout and intimated she had no present intention of recalling the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration to Southbridge. The board indicated Saturday it would not return here unless summoned by either the union or the Hamilton management.

Case Continued

Judge Louis O. Rjeutord, sitting in District court today, continued until Friday a charge of disturbing the peace preferred against Mrs. Agnes Slota, 37, of 62 Union st., by State police. Mrs. Slota was removed from the picket line at the mill last Monday, troopers having claimed she had shouted loudly at workers as they entered the plant to resume work.

Three Worcester locals of the United Textile Workers of America Saturday voted moral and financial support for strikers in Southbridge and Dudley.

Transportation of non-union workers to and from work was condemned by the three locals.

400

Strikers Storm Southbridge Police Headquarters

MOB DEMANDS RELEASE OF SIX MILL WORKERS

Woman Attacks 3 State Troopers During Melee Lasting Hours

ADDITIONAL FORCES SOUGHT BY TOWN

Gov. Ely Denies Labor's Plea to Recall 'Strike Breaking Policemen'

[Special Dispatch to The Herald]

SOUTHBRIDGE, Dec. 10—Nearly 400 strikers on picket duty rioted around police headquarters for more than three hours late today and demanded that six persons who were arrested at the Hamilton Woolen Company mills be released.

Despite the restraining efforts of 40 state troopers and the local police force, the throng could not be dispersed until nightfall, when they learned that all six, charged with disturbing the peace or assault and battery, had been released on bail.

WOMAN ATTACKS TROOPERS

Enraged at being herded to the rear ranks of the crowd in front of the station, Miss Violet Lajeunesse, a striking employee, attacked three state troopers. According to witnesses, officers were forced to drag the woman to a patrol wagon by her hair. She was booked on a charge of assault and battery.

What precipitated the trouble which led to the arrest of the six strikers at the close of work today has not yet been determined. It is believed, however, that the loyal workers apparently had organized for their own protection as they approached the mill gates this morning in groups of 20 to 50.

When the mills closed this afternoon groups of workers were allegedly attacked by the pickets until the group fights were broken up by the police. Excitable scenes were enacted at police headquarters as strike leaders, one of whom is Miss Jean Gauthier, and relatives of those arrested protested strongly against the manner in which the arrests were made. They also demanded that some of the workers, whom they accused of attacking the pickets, be arrested.

Questioned on the alleged rough tactics employed by police in making the arrests, Lt. Harry L. Avery, in charge of the state troopers, said that "no more violence was used by my men than was absolutely necessary." He added that the board of selectmen at present has

no jurisdiction over the conduct of the state police and that it is up to Gov. Ely to remove them from the mills.

In anticipation of additional trouble tomorrow, Police Chief Ulric Brault asked tonight that all available state troopers be sent to the mills.

Besides Miss Lajeunesse, those arrested this afternoon were Miss Anna Ladyka, 40, of 50 School street; Miss Paulette Ridgieri, 20, of 679 Main street; Miss Anna Skowron of 66 West street, Nick Vecchia, 24, of 16 Wardwell court and Joseph Paul, 33, of 91 Cross street.

All were charged with disturbing the peace.

State troopers, characterized by the executive council of the state branch, American Federation of Labor, as "strike breaking state policemen," will be kept on duty in Southbridge and Dudley, Gov. Ely said last night "as long as local officials need them."

Replying to the demand of the labor organization for the withdrawal of the troopers and their assignment to "the work of apprehending criminals instead of coercing citizens," the Governor said:

The state police are not trying to break a strike or anything like it. They are not there to interfere with any worker. They went to help local authorities maintain order. They'll stay as long as local officials need them.

He added that the troopers were sent to the towns where industrial strikes are in progress "because local authorities asked for help."

"We all remember," said the Governor, "what happened before when outsiders got into those towns for their own amusement." His reference obviously was to the strife which occurred during the recent textile strike.

WHAT COUNCIL SAYS

The labor council asserted that if the Governor desired the restoration of normal conditions in the towns, the state board of arbitration and conciliation, instead of "strike-breaking policemen" should be sent.

Answering that charge the Governor said: "The services of the arbitration board have been offered in all cases where there has been difficulty between mill owners and their employees. The board is at the call of any who desire it."

He said that he will not make a formal reply to the protest of the labor group which protested against "the diversion of public funds to subsidize private business in violation of the textile strike agreement," and declared, "So many crimes of violence remain unsolved, when highway patrol is so essential for public safety, when a prominent citizen in a fashionable community has to telephone Washington for ordinary police protection to save his daughter from kidnapers, we believe that any one who diverts normal police functions to assist mill owners in strike breaking is guilty of misuse of his executive authority and neglect of sworn responsibility."

HAMILTON WOOLLEN CO. CLOSES IN

Firm Wires Customers It Will Fill Orders Elsewhere

The management of the Hamilton Woolen Co. announced today it had decided to close its plant indefinitely. The order became effective at 3:30 p. m.

The announcement came as a stunning surprise to company employes, who were notified of the decision by plant foremen just before the end of operations today.

Announcement of the shutdown meant at least temporary unemployment for the 694 persons who were on the company payroll today. The mill usually employs 1,000 workers on two shifts, although the payroll on occasion has risen as high as 1,200.

Richard Lennihan, president of the company, said the cessation of operations was due to the strike of union employes at the mill. The strike would have entered its fifth week late tomorrow afternoon.

The notice, given jointly to employes of the concern and to its customers by telegraph, said the firm's departments were disorganized almost completely and that it would be impossible to fill orders under strike conditions.

The company, in its telegram, said it had continued to operate in the face of violence and other difficult conditions. The wire cited yesterday's disturbance at the mill as one of the contributory causes of the cessation of activity.

Mr. Lennihan said in the notice to customers that if they were willing to accept very late deliveries he would endeavor to place as many of their orders as practicable elsewhere for manufacture.

Officials of the company gave no indication of the duration of the shutdown and did not comment as to whether it would be permanent insofar as Southbridge is concerned.

Foremen and other executives were called into the office building of the company where news of the immediate closing of the plant was imparted to them. They then crossed Mill st. to give the information to workers who were about ready to depart to their homes.

Announcement of the decision to cease manufacture of woolen goods was not given to foremen until within 10 minutes of the end of the work day.

The contents of Mr. Lennihan's telegram to customers, which was read to employes, was as follows:

"As you may know from press reports, Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc., has been subjected to its third strike since Labor Day. For the past several weeks we have continued operation to the best of our ability in the face of violence and other most difficult conditions. Certain of our departments are now almost completely disorganized and yesterday there was further serious violence to employees.

"Therefore, we are regretfully obliged to close down our mill. Deliveries, as specified in your orders, have been made impossible by these strike conditions. You may prefer to cancel your orders. If, however, you will accept very late deliveries, and so advise us, we will endeavor to arrange for the manufacture elsewhere, of as much of the merchandise on order, as practicable. Wire answer collect."

The arrest of a Hamilton Woolen Co. employe shortly after noon on a charge of assault marred the calm which otherwise had followed the mass demonstration in front of Police headquarters yesterday, when 150 pickets gathered to protest the alleged roughness of State troopers in arresting four women and a man at the mill. No disturbances were reported last night after the demonstration ended to enable strikers to attend a union meeting in Pilsudski hall.

The worker arrested is Mrs. Jennie Labonte, 37, of 13 Ballard ct., who is charged with assaulting a woman striker as she (Mrs. Labonte) was leaving the mill for lunch.

Mrs. Labonte was released under \$50 bond for her appearance in District court here tomorrow. Bond was furnished by Raymond M. Burnham.

State troopers said the trouble at the plant started yesterday when pickets attempted to pass the deadline which they have established 20 feet from the main gate.

The troopers said they arrested a woman, Mrs. Anna Skowroni, 40, of 66 West st., when she refused to move after approaching too close to the gate. When they attempted to place her in an auto to be brought to headquarters on a disturbance of the peace charge, eyewitnesses said some of the pickets surged around the machine.

The movement of the body attracted troopers near the upper mill gate opposite the company office and they hurried to the scene.

Police charged the pickets were attempting to release their prisoner and the other four persons were arrested.

The incident happened about 10 minutes after the whistle had sounded at 3:30 p. m. to signal the end of the day's work.

Indignant at what they called the unnecessary roughness used by the State constabulary in arresting the four women and a man and bundling them into cars, the pickets began a march on headquarters.

Meet Miss Gauthier

As they walked along the sidewalk on Main st., cheering and singing, they were met by Miss Jean Gauthier, president of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America, who was returning from a trip to territory surrounding Southbridge to obtain food for the strikers.

The pickets informed Miss Gauthier of the reason for their march, saying it was a protest against the vigor shown by the troopers.

Miss Gauthier and other officials of the union then went to headquarters to assist in procuring bond for the prisoners.

Many Women March

The pickets, nearly two-thirds of them women, continued their march and congregated in front of the Main st. driveway which leads to the police station. Three local officers stood at the entrance to the drive but no attempt was made to pass them, although the shouting and calling continued.

After they had stood there for about 10 minutes, 20 State troopers emerged from the Police station and walked down the driveway, telling the pickets to keep moving. The pickets obeyed, but did not leave the vicinity of headquarters. Instead, they paraded through the square.

No riot sticks were used by troopers to start the pickets moving. Local police did not bring out riot guns and prepare to use them in case an attempt at a jail delivery were made, as reported in published articles.

One Arrested

The pickets marched about the square in an orderly fashion although one man, Joseph Paul, 33, of 91 Cross st., was arrested by Trooper Walter J. McDonnell on a disturbance charge after he allegedly had raised his voice while parading. He later was admitted to \$25 bond for appearance in District court tomorrow.

Angry remarks concerning the alleged violence shown by troopers were heard inside the Police station as relatives, friends and union officials made arrangements for bailing the prisoners. Mrs. Mary Donovan Hapgood, widely known in labor circles, was among those at headquarters.

All were admitted to bond within an hour after their arrests and as they emerged from the building, singly and in pairs, they were greeted with cheers by the pickets. When the last persons had been bailed out shortly before 5 p. m., the pickets retraced their steps and went to a union meeting in their Globe Village headquarters, Pilsudski hall.

WOOLEN CO. INDEFINITELY

GOV. ELY RAPS LOCAL STRIKE AS 'ILLEGAL'

To Stay Out

Miss Gauthier said following the meeting the strikers had remained firm in their intention not to return to work.

Miss Gauthier said today Mrs. Skowroni had been obliged to see a physician last night to secure medical attention for a badly bruised wrist. The wrist allegedly was hurt while the woman was in the hands of the troopers.

Those arrested in addition to Mrs. Skowroni and Paul included Anna Ladyka, 40, of 50 School st., and Nick Veshia, 24, of 16 Wardwell ct., who were taken into custody by Trooper Barbozza, who also arrested Mrs. Skowroni, on charges of disturbing the peace. They were bailed in \$25 and told to appear in court tomorrow.

Violet Lajeunesse, 49, of 28 Collier st., will face the most serious charge tomorrow, assault on Trooper Stronnick while he was attempting to arrest her. She was brought to headquarters by Sergt. McGuinness and the trooper and was admitted to bail of \$50.

Pickets Get Coffee

The sixth arrest of the day was that of Pauline Ridirigue, 20, of 679 Main st., who was picked up by Trooper McDonnell on a disturbance count. Her bail also was fixed at \$25.

Picketing at the plant was peaceful this morning as workers entered the plant.

The company said 694 persons, including office help and guards, were on its payroll today, an increase of 14 over the 680 reported yesterday. Union officials said they had not estimated as yet this week the number working in the mill.

Miss Gauthier said arrangements had been made to give pickets coffee twice daily at Pilsudski hall. Coffee will be served at 7 a. m. and from 12:30 to 2 p. m.

The union president also requested that merchants and residents who desire to contribute either food or clothing to strikers notify her at her home telephone and she will make arrangements to collect the articles.

Governor Hints Charters Of Local Labor Units May be Revoked

CHARGES VIOLATION

Says Provisions of 7-A Are Disregarded By Hamilton Strikers

By United Press

BOSTON, Dec. 11—Gov. Joseph B. Ely, in a stinging rebuke to Robert J. Watt, legislative agent of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, today charged the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co. in Southbridge was "illegal" and that there has been violation of the textile strike agreement on the part of the federation with the resultant prospect that charters would be revoked.

The Governor's sizzling letter to the labor leader was in reply to a message Mr. Watt sent to the State House yesterday demanding the withdrawal of State troopers from strike areas.

Gov. Ely said he practically had reached the conclusion that some of the men who claim to represent labor are doing it more harm than good and that they incite difficulties without obtaining satisfactory results for those whom they claim to represent.

Businesses Leave State

The State's Chief Executive blasted policies promulgated by labor which, he said, during the past few years seem to have resulted in driving from the Commonwealth industries which would have provided employment for many men and woman, had they remained.

He flatly denied troopers were being used as strike breakers and said they were affording protection to the citizens of communities where they had been sent at the request of local authorities.

The Governor's retort to Mr. Watt followed conferences with the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. The board reported it had been to Southbridge on three occasions to confer with either strikers or the woolen company management in effort to reach a settlement. In the last attempt, the board said, it had suggested to strikers they return to work under a plan submitted by board members. The offer was refused, members said. They did

not disclose the suggested peace plan.

Gov. Ely's Letter

Mr. Ely's letter follows:

"Dear Sir:

"It is not customary for me to pay a great deal of attention to letters addressed to me evidently for purposes of public consumption as was yours by reason of its publication prior to its reaching my desk; but as the contents raised a question of public policy, it seems to me that a public reply is warranted.

"The State police are not used as strike breakers as you allege but for the protection of citizens of the various communities and at the request of the local authorities. It is far from the mark to say that public funds are being used to subsidize private business in violation of a textile strike agreement. These men are on duty to preserve order and for no other purpose. If I am correctly informed there has been violation of the textile strike agreement upon the part of your organization and those whom you claim to represent, and there is at the present time prospect that charters will be revoked because of such violations.

Must Protect All

"It has seemed to me for some time from your public utterances and your political methods and your attempts to dictate the personnel of the Division of Labor and Industry, that you have lost touch of the broad purposes of that department and the obligation which the Chief Executive owes, by reason of his oath and the laws of the Commonwealth, to protect all the people of Massachusetts and to treat them with equal justice. My imagination is sufficiently elastic and active to about reach the conclusion that some of the men who claim to represent labor are doing them more harm than good, that you incite difficulties without obtaining satisfactory results for those whom you claim to represent. The policies which you have presumed during the last few years seem to have resulted in sending out of this Commonwealth a large number of businesses which in remaining here could have furnished reasonable employment to a great number of men and women. My imagination is sufficiently elastic to appreciate that the policies which you have pursued have enabled you to maintain your job while others were losing theirs, but no one in this community or any other seems to have sufficient courage to tell it to you.

Strike is Illegal

"One of the paragraphs of your letter seems to inflame the working men and women of this State by endeavoring to represent that flying squadrons, and public servants on horseback with night

sticks, are intimidating the peace-loving citizens of various communities. This is decidedly untrue. The fact is that in the Hamilton mill there are 606 employees at work, that your strike is illegal and being conducted by a minority of the employees contrary to the provisions of 7-A and in the face of collective bargaining. The arbitration board has offered a proper solution to this difficulty and agreeable to the Federal authorities and agreeable to the national leaders of the textile union.

"The Board of Conciliation and Arbitration has been active and reasonably successful in settlements of labor differences in this Commonwealth during the last few weeks. The use of State police at the request of local authorities in order to preserve order and protect the citizens of the various communities in their daily occupations has nothing whatever to do with the functioning of that board and you and those whom you control should be willing to sit down to work out a peaceful solution to the difficulties which have arisen.

Abilities are Great?

"I am forced to believe that the venom of your letter rests upon your inability to dictate my appointments and not upon any just cause of complaint against them as through the performance of their duties, perhaps a consideration which you personally have been shown during the four years of my administration, both in the conduct of the Department of Labor and Industry and in the selection of you personally for various committee assignments of responsibility, has led you to believe your abilities greater than they really should be appraised and has led you into thinking that you are an indispensable part of the government of this Commonwealth.

"In closing let me say to you that the people of this Commonwealth will have no respect for American institutions if the government is to be dictated to by any particular part of the community to the end that it fails to preserve law and order which are the fundamentals of a successful community.

"Signed, Joseph B. Ely."

To the Employees of the

Hamilton Woolen

Company

Incorporated

And the Residents of

SOUTHBRIDGE

And Surrounding Communities

The following telegram was today sent to all customers of Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc.:

"As you may know from Press Reports Hamilton Woolen Company, Incorporated, has been subjected to its third strike since Labor Day. For the past several weeks we have continued operations to the best of our ability in the face of violence and other most difficult conditions. Certain of our departments are now almost completely disorganized and yesterday there was further serious violence to employees. Therefore, we are regretfully obliged to close down our mill. Deliveries, as specified in your orders, have been made impossible by these strike conditions. You may prefer to cancel your orders. If however, you will accept very late deliveries, and so advise us, we will endeavor to arrange for the manufacture elsewhere, of as much of the merchandise on order, as practicable. Wire answer collect.

Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc.

"By Richard Lennihan, President"

**Southbridge, Massachusetts,
December 11, 1934**

Strikes Close Southbridge Textile Mills, 1000 Lose Jobs

OWNERS FIND VIOLENCE TOO GREAT TO RUN

Policies Pursued by Labor
Driving Business Out of
State, Ely Says

WALKOUT ILLEGAL, HE FURTHER STATES

Workers Weep as They
Find Selves Without
Money for Christmas

[Special Dispatch to The Herald]

SOUTHBRIDGE, Dec. 10—Strikes and labor troubles reached an unexpected climax here tonight with the announcement that after 120 years of nearly continuous operation the mills of the Hamilton Woolen Company are to be closed, which means that nearly 1000 persons will be thrown out of work.

The following telegram was sent to all customers of the Hamilton Woolen Company today:

As you may know from press reports, the Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc., has been subjected to its third strike since Labor day. For the past several weeks we have continued operation to the best of our ability in the face of violence and other most difficult conditions.

DEPARTMENTS DISORGANIZED

Certain of our departments are now almost completely disorganized and yesterday there was further serious violence to employees. Therefore we are regretfully obliged to close down our mill. Deliveries, as specified in your orders, have been made impossible by these strike conditions.

You may prefer to cancel your orders. If, however, you will accept very late deliveries, and so advise us, we will endeavor to arrange for the manufacture elsewhere of as much of the merchandise on order as practicable. (signed) Richard Lennihan, president.

The sudden announcement came almost at the same time that Gov. Ely made public in Boston a letter to Robert J. Watt, secretary of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, attacking Watt's charges that state troopers had been used as strike breakers here and elsewhere.

In his letter Gov. Ely charged Watt with pursuing policies which "seem to have resulted in sending out of this commonwealth a large number of businesses," and declared that, particularly in the case of the Hamilton Woolen Company labor troubles, the strike "is illegal and being conducted by a minority of the employees contrary to the provisions of 7A and in the face of collective bargaining."

TRAGEDY FOR TOWN

The closing of the Hamilton woolen mills is regarded as the greatest tragedy in the history of Southbridge. Workers wept when they realized that the Christmas season will find them without employment or income. Merchants, town officials and business and professional men considered the future of the town with alarm, realizing that the closing of

the mill will affect nearly every one of the 16,000 inhabitants.

J. Edwards Demers, chairman of the board of selectmen, said tonight he would call a special town meeting to appropriate further money for the welfare department because of the expected drain.

Frederick W. Rowley, 83, of South street, now retired, who for more than 60 years was a foreman of the wool sorters at the mill, said tonight that when both sides in the controversy use their cool reason the mills will be opened again. He is one of the few optimists in the town.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the local U. T. W. A. and leader of the strike, said that the announcement of the closing of the mills came as a surprise to her. She said that picket lines will be withdrawn at once.

TROOPERS TO REMAIN

State troopers will remain here until further orders from the Governor. Several hundred pickets were on duty today, despite the severe cold. Mrs. Jennie Malade Labonte was arrested charged with assault on one of the women pickets.

In a letter dated Dec. 7, Secretary Watt, charging that state troopers had been used as strikebreakers at Dudley, Southbridge, Ludlow and other communities, called on Gov. Ely to put the state police back to work apprehending criminals instead of coercing citizens.

Gov. Ely's reply was as follows: The state police are not used as strike breakers as you allege, but for the protection of the citizens of the various communities and at the request of the local authorities.

It has seemed to me for some time from your public utterances and your political methods and your attempt to dictate the personnel of the division of labor and industries that you had lost sight of the broad policies of that department and the obligation which the chief executive owes to protect all the people of Massachusetts and to treat them with equal justice.

SOME HURTING LABOR

My imagination is sufficiently elastic and active to reach the conclusion that some of the men who claim to represent labor are doing it more harm than good, that you incite difficulty without obtaining results for those whom you claim to represent.

The policies which you have pursued during the last few years seem to have resulted in sending out of this commonwealth a large number of businesses which if remaining here could have furnished reasonable employment to a great number of men and women. My imagination is sufficiently elastic to appreciate that the policies which you have pursued have enabled you to maintain your job while others were losing theirs,—but no one in this community or any other seems to have sufficient courage to tell it to you.

One of the paragraphs of your letter seeks to inflame the working men and women of this state by endeavoring to represent that flying squadrons, and public servants on horseback with night sticks, are intimidating the peace loving citizens of the various communities.

DECIDEDLY UNTRUE

This is decidedly untrue. The fact is that in the Hamilton mills there are 606 employees at work, that your strike is illegal and being conducted by a minority of the employees contrary to the provisions of 7-A and in the face of collective bargaining. The arbitration board has offered a proper and reasonable solution to this difficulty and agreeable to the federal authorities and agreeable to the national leaders of the textile union.

I am forced to believe that the venom of your letter rests upon your inability to dictate my appointments and not upon any just cause of complaint against them as to the performance of their duties. Perhaps the consideration which you personally have been shown during the four years of my administration, both in the conduct of the department of labor and industries and in the selection of you personally for various committee assignments of responsibility, has led you to believe that your abilities are greater than they really should be appraised, and has led you into thinking that you are an indispensable part of the government of this commonwealth.

Boston Transcript One of Those Moral

Dec. 12 Victories '34

Of what benefit is it to labor to bring about the closing of a mill throwing hundreds of workers out of employment? It is reported that when the Hamilton Woolen Company closed its mill at Southbridge yesterday because of the violence with which a strike there had been conducted, the labor leaders set up a claim that they had won a victory. They had forced the closing of the mill doors. That was what they had been trying to do. But it is likely to prove one of those victories which are worse than defeat.

The strikers hoped to halt operations in the mill temporarily while they dictated terms on which work might be reduced. They apparently did not contemplate the prospect of having the mill closed for good and all. Yet, according to Richard Lennihan, president of the company, that will be the result if the strikers persist in their demands. Their "victory" will thus be turned into defeat.

Who suffers most because of this "victory"?

Yesterday 680 persons were at work in the mill. The strikers numbered about 400. An organized minority, they took the jobs from the majority who wanted to work. One of the news despatches says that among these people were those who were reduced to tears as they thought of loss of wages and resort to the town's welfare rolls at the beginning of the Christmas season. They were the principal victims in what may properly be described as a labor war, using the term in a new sense, a war waged by labor against labor.

The town of Southbridge is a heavy loser because of this "victory" of a minority among a group of its wage earners. It faces the immediate necessity of providing for a large addition to the numbers of its people in need of assistance. It is threatened with the loss of one of its two chief industries. The Hamilton Woolen Company has been in existence for more than a century. Its mill has been in nearly continuous operation during all that time. It has been one of the chief instrumentalities in the prosperity of the town. Because of it, many not employed in the mill have been able to earn a livelihood.

Such a concern with the passage of the years becomes more than a business. It is an essential part of the life of the whole community. In this case, it may be put out of existence or driven away because of the tyranny of a minority of its employees. If that be the result of the strike, it may be said with truth that the majority who wanted to work, the minority themselves, their Southbridge neighbors engaged in other occupations, and the town of Southbridge will be losers in greater degree than will the company.

The strikers celebrated their "victory" as the mills closed. It is probable that, in the zero temperature of the morning after, they awoke to the fact that there may be victories worse than defeat.

MILL'S CLOSING AFFECTS 16,000

Southbridge Plunged in Pre-Christmas Gloom Over Action

SOUTHBRIDGE, Dec. 12—This town is shrouded in gloom today following announcement that the Hamilton Woolen Company, victim of three strikes since Labor day, will be closed after nearly 120 years of continuous operation.

The closing affects nearly all of the 16,000 inhabitants of the town and coming within two weeks of Christmas, the action of the management is made even more tragic.

There is little hope in the town that a change of decision on the part of the management may result in reopening of the mills. Announcement of Richard Lennihan, president of the company, was definite and was made not as a statement to the general public, but to customers of the mills. It informs them that they may wish to cancel orders, but, if they will accept late deliveries, attempts will be made to arrange for manufacture elsewhere.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the local union of the U. T. W., was preparing a statement to be issued later today.

The closing followed directly on the letter of Gov. Ely in reply to charges by Robert J. att, secretary of the A. F. of L. The Governor charged that policies pursued by Watt "seem to have resulted in sending out of this commonwealth a large number of businesses which, if remaining here, could have furnished reasonable employment to a great number of men and women." He also said the present strike is illegal and being conducted by a minority of the employees.

Miss Gauthier, on hearing of mill's announcement, said picket lines would be withdrawn at once.

State troopers will remain on duty until further orders by Gov. Ely.

OPEN HEARING IS ORDERED

State Board Will Attempt to Find Cause of Walkout

Hearing Will Open at 10 A. M. in Town Hall Friday;
Board Will Summon Witnesses and Take Testimony
Under Oath as Last Recourse in Strike Muddle

MAY REACH TRUCE BEFORE INVESTIGATION

**Conciliation Body to Meet Strike and Mill Heads In
Private Early in Morning; Union Leader Denies
Strike is Illegal; Pickets March, 1 Arrested**

Using its last recourse, the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, after a conference today in Boston, ordered a public hearing to be held in Southbridge Friday as a means of determining the cause of the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co. and to place responsibility for its continuance.

In its sweeping investigation of the walkout, culminated yesterday when the plant abruptly ceased operations for an indefinite period, the board will summon witnesses before it and take testimony under oath as a public record.

The hearing will begin at 10 a. m. in Town hall.

Chairman Edward Fisher today said that before the investigation began, the board would make another effort to settle the walkout. Union leaders and the plant management will be asked to confer early in the morning and if no settlement results, the hearing will be started.

The board had indicated when it was here Nov. 16, two days after the strike had been called, it might have to resort to the drastic step of a public hearing.

Members of the board indicated at that time they would continue endeavors to conciliate differences even during the hearing. Should no agreement be reached, the board will weigh the testimony it receives and submit through the press a written report which will place blame for the strike and its continuance.

The board explained it will rely on public opinion after its report to effect a resumption of relations between workers and the owners of the mill, the board itself having no authority to issue orders which will force the strikers to return to the plant or compel the management to re-hire them.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America, today disputed the claim made by Gov. Joseph B. Ely yesterday that the strike in Southbridge was illegal. She said conditions at the plant had warranted the walkout.

Gov. Ely, questioned by the United Press today, declined to amplify his assertion of yesterday concerning the local strike.

Miss Gauthier indicated today she did not know what policy the local union would follow as a result of the shutdown until she had had opportunity later today to confer with Ira Dickens of Worcester, central Massachusetts organizer of the U. T. W. A., who is expected to come to Southbridge. She also said she expected

to communicate today with Joseph Sylvia of Pawtucket, R. I., New England organizer of the union, and Horace Riviere, international vice-president of the union, both of whom have interested themselves in the Southbridge situation.

Closing Was Surprise

The head of the Hamilton local professed the action of the company yesterday in ceasing operations had come as a surprise to her.

She said the plant would be picketed until all activity at the

mill had ceased. A few employees entered today to complete work necessary to closing.

Miss Gauthier asserted the pickets would be relieved hourly during the cold weather and that union members would be divided into teams so the plant might not be left unwatched during daylight hours.

About 30 pickets were on guard at the mill at 6:30 a. m. when a brief scuffle resulted in the arrest of Anthony Stypulkowski, 21, of 110 Sturbridge rd., for assaulting an officer and disturbance of the peace.

Awaits Dickens

Miss Gauthier, when questioned regarding her willingness to assent to another attempt to arbitrate the strike, said she could give no statement until after her conference with Mr. Dickens.

She indicated there would be little hope for any settlement if the return to work hinged on a proposal she said the company made when the State board was here last week. She said the company had agreed to take strikers back if none of those employed in the plant at the time were displaced and if the firm were not obliged to re-hire those union members who had been brought into court as a result of strike disturbances. She said acceptance of such conditions of return were intolerable, indicating the union felt it must stand behind those who had been involved in trouble and ascertain their jobs were waiting for them.

Mr. Fisher, in announcing Friday's hearing, asked the co-operation of all public-spirited citizens in Southbridge in an effort to find a solution of the strike problem.

Office to be Open

The woolen company did not amplify its statement of yesterday concerning the shutdown other than saying the office would remain open for a few days to complete payrolls and accounts preliminary to closing.

Stypulkowski, according to local police who arrested him, was shouting in an unnecessarily loud voice and was told by Officers Stanley Knowles and John Buccell to be more orderly. Officer Knowles said Stypulkowski seized him by both shoulders and pushed him.

Stypulkowski was arrested immediately and secured bond of \$100 for arraignment in District court Monday.

Continuances Given

Continuances were granted the four women and two men who were arrested Monday following demonstrations at the woolen company and in front of Police headquarters. Their cases also were scheduled by Judge Louis O. Rieutord for Monday.

Arraignment of Mrs. Jennie Labonte, 37, of 13 Ballard st., taken into custody at noon yesterday for allegedly assaulting a picket, Mrs. Albertina Gaumond, 37, of 87 Mill st., was continued to Friday when she asked time to procure witnesses. Mrs. Labonte was an employe at the mill until it closed yesterday.

There were no disturbances reported during the night to police.

WATT CHARGES ELY'S WORDS ARE 'BOLONEY'

**Says Wage Earners Want
Conciliation and Not
Last-Ditch Fight**

DISPUTES DEPLORED

**Asserts Governor Seeks
To Discredit Persons
He Cannot Coerce**

Special Correspondence

BOSTON, Dec. 12—Robert J. Watt, secretary-treasurer of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, struck back at Gov. Ely, charging that his policy was to discredit "on any pretense" those he could not coerce or control.

Watt's 800-word open letter to the chief executive prolonged the controversy which began with Watt's attack on the Governor Monday and which gained heat with publication of Ely's answer yesterday.

"The opened hand of conciliation and arbitration is what wage earners in Massachusetts seek instead of any last-ditch fighting," Watt's letter concluded.

He classed some of the Governor's statements as "boloney" and suggested that Ely devote the waning days of his administration "to developing a solution of industrial disputes, which we both deplore."

The controversy dates to Watt's complaint against the use of State troopers as "strike breakers" in the textile trouble zones of Southbridge, Ludlow and elsewhere.

"To those inexperienced in your ways, the timing of your attack on me precedes so narrowly the withdrawal threat of the Hamilton mill as to show plainly that both of the retiring members of the executive department attempt to discredit, on any pretext, those they cannot coerce or control," the letter read.

"Your letter of Dec. 11, addressed to me personally, will be presented at the next meeting of the executive council of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor under whose direction our letter of Dec. 7 was sent to you. They will, no doubt, be surprised to learn that you answer our official request as citizens, taxpayers and representatives of organized labor for the withdrawal of State troopers from the strike-breaking arguments by an attack upon secretary, who on many occasions you have praised so flat-

MILL WORKERS LIQUIDATION

Save The Hamilton Woolen Co. For Southbridge!

EDITORIAL

The permanent closing of the Hamilton Woolen Co. would mean a major disaster to Southbridge. Greatest injury would fall upon the workers, but not a person in Town could escape the consequences. The personal fortunes of all are involved.

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration is making valiant efforts to harmonize differences and to establish conditions under which management and workers might be induced to resume operations. It has tried before, without success.

THIS TIME IT MUST NOT FAIL.

Public sentiment in Southbridge is thoroughly aroused over the outcome of industrial warfare in one of its leading manufacturing establishments. This sentiment should be organized and directed to the end of bringing to bear all possible pressure to save the Hamilton Woolen Co. for Southbridge.

As for the attitude of the directors of the company, The News has no information beyond what has been published. Pres. Richard Lennihan yesterday announced an indefinite shut-down, and all may draw their own conclusions as to the future.

The News is of the opinion that unless the influence of outside labor organizers is tempered or withdrawn, the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. will wind up the business. Let no one say that Richard Lennihan is bluffing. We believe he is determined against any further operations here in the face of constant agitation from outside.

The News regrets the misfortunes of the strikers, as well as those of loyal workers, who face the certainty of continued unemployment unless a quick and decisive stroke is made for peace.

The strikers believe they have grievances that call for adjustment. Today, with the disaster of unemployment facing them, they must choose between the miseries of hardship on the one hand, and the other alternative of asking the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration to secure reasonable terms for them in a peaceful settlement.

The strikers have gained all they can by fighting. They have closed the mill. If they take bad advice and continue the war, they will bring further disaster upon themselves as well as others.

Gov. Ely yesterday declared the strike illegal, and exoriated labor leaders who continue to hold their jobs while their followers are losing theirs.

Not only Gov. Ely, but President Roosevelt as well, is opposed to the kind of trouble that has been going on in Southbridge.

Organizers who encourage strikes in times of depression are not only wronging the workers they call from their jobs; they are defying the President of the United States in his plea for an industrial truce.

Chairman Fisher of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration today requested The News to say he would welcome the help of citizens of Southbridge in getting at the causes of the strike trouble, fixing responsibility, and seeking a settlement. We believe our people will be glad to aid in this highly necessary undertaking.

Southbridge cannot afford to lose the Hamilton Woolen Co., and the force of public opinion should brush aside all influences that may tend to bring calamity upon the Town.

Directors Will Vote On Hamilton Dissolution Next Tuesday

FIRM SELLS STOCK Washington Sends Staff Man to Aid in Strike Truce Efforts

By United Press

BOSTON, Dec. 13 — Directors of the strike-closed Hamilton Woolen mills of Southbridge at a meeting next Tuesday, may consider the matter of complete liquidation of property and dissolution of the company, B. Loring Young, a director, said today.

The management, he said, has no intention of attempting to reopen its plant, closed Tuesday after a strike marked by rioting.

"The company," he said, "is selling from its New York office all the raw cotton, all finished goods and all stock in process. It is liquidating every movable object although it is not yet contemplating the sale of the plant and machinery.

"At the meeting next Tuesday directors may take up the matter of complete liquidation of property and dissolution of the company.

"This would have to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the stockholders at their meeting in February unless a special meeting is called earlier."

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 — John Thumbley, a member of the Textile board field staff, was sent to Southbridge, Mass., today to participate in conciliation efforts to end the strike of workers at the Hamilton Woolen Co.

Board officials said the labor dispute was being watched closely with a view to doing everything possible to reach an agreement. Neither management nor labor has requested a special hearing.

Union Calls Special Meeting for Tonight

A special meeting of members of the Hamilton union was called today by leaders of the local. The meeting will be held at 9 p. m. in Pilsudski hall and all members were urged to attend.

Reports prevailed here today that the expected arrival of John Thumbley, a member of the Textile board field staff, was in response to a telegram sent to Washington from Southbridge.

Reports said the telegram was sent by local merchants but a check failed to reveal any store owner who had knowledge of the wire.

There was no trouble at the plant today as the Hamilton Woolen Co. secretarial staff strove to complete payrolls before the shutdown, ordered Tuesday, becomes effective in the office.

Considerable attention was focused locally on the meeting tomorrow among union leaders, the

plant management and the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration in a final effort to settle the strike.

The meeting will be held prior to the public hearing, which is scheduled to begin at 10 a. m.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America, said Ira Dickens, central Massachusetts organizer of the U. T. W. A.; Horace Riviere, international vice-president of the union, and Joseph Sylvia, its New England organizer, would be present at the conference and hearing tomorrow.

Quits Bank Post



RICHARD LENNIHAN

LENNIHAN RESIGNS POSITION AT BANK

Report Hamilton Official Has Quit as President Of Savings Bank

Richard Lennihan, president of the Hamilton Woolen Co., which ceased operations for an indefinite period last Tuesday because of the strike at the plant, today resigned as president of the Southbridge Savings Bank, The News learned from highly reliable sources.

Mr. Lennihan was in New York on business and confirmation could not be gained either from him or from the bank.

Bank officials said they had not heard from Mr. Lennihan and added they had not been aware of his resignation.

Mr. Lennihan was elected president of the bank in October, 1933, following the death of John E. Paige.

R KILLS SELF; IS PLANNED

Kazmiroski Discovered Suspended From Attic Beam by Son at 9:30

Family Claims Threats Of
Strikers 'to Get' Man
Caused Suicide

WORKED AS WEAVER

Corpse Still Warm When
Found; Worried About
Closing of Plant

Death cast its shadow on the Southbridge strike picture today as an employe of the Hamilton Woolen Co., reported by his family to have been frightened badly by threats of bodily harm made by strikers, committed suicide at his home, 110 Mill st., by hanging.

The man, Mitchell Kazmiroski, 53, was found suspended by a piece of clothesline from a beam in the attic of the house by his son, Sigmunc Kazmiroski, 21, who also was employed at the woolen company until it suspended operations Tuesday afternoon.

Police said the son told them the body still was warm when he discovered it at 9:30 a. m. today.

Feared Leaving Home

The son said threats had been made against his father by strikers and that he had been afraid to leave the house except to go to work and return.

He said strikers had promised "to get him (his father) when he didn't have police protection," a threat which had preyed on the father's mind and which had been discussed frequently by the family since the strike began Nov. 14.

Mr. Kazmiroski was employed in the weave shop, one of the more seriously crippled departments at the mill. He had worked there since early in 1928 and the company said today he was one

of the firm's most efficient weavers, never having been laid off except when the plant was closed.

Worried About Future

Police said the family had discussed the recent shutdown at the mill and that the father was worried about his future. Authorities said the son had told his father not to be troubled because they would be among the first to be recalled if plant were to open again.

Mr. Kazmiroski arose early this morning and had breakfast. His wife left later to go to a store to purchase some provisions for the family. The son began to tidy the kitchen and his father went upstairs, presumably to arrange the bedroom.

The mother returned and Mr. Kazmiroski was not missed until a friend called at the house to speak to him.

Discovers Body

The son shouted upstairs but there was no response. When the father failed to appear, young Kazmiroski climbed the steps to the bedroom. Not seeing him there, he continued into the attic, where the body was found swinging from the beam.

The son cut the corpse down and summoned police. State troopers and Police Chief Ulric Brault responded. Dr. A. J. McCrae, medical examiner, also was called.

Mr. Kazmiroski came to Southbridge about six years ago from Philadelphia, where he had been working in a textile mill.

Were Naturalized

He and his son were naturalized citizens of the United States, they having arrived in this country 20 years ago from the part of Russia which now is Poland. The son had worked at the mill as a weaver since May, 1931.

In addition to the son and his wife, Mrs. Josephine (Swiontik) Kazmiroski, the worker is survived by a daughter, Helen.

Arrangements for the funeral are under the direction of Daniel T. Morrill. ***

The announcement was interpreted as a certain indication that the threat of the mill management to move the plant because of local labor troubles is about to be fulfilled. If the plant is moved, 1000 will be thrown out of work.

Union leaders, workers and representatives of the mill management, as well as labor leaders from other states and communities, conferred here tonight on the eve of a meeting scheduled for the town hall tomorrow morning, at which the state board of arbitration and conciliation will make a final effort to bring about an adjustment.

Powers Hapgood, labor agitator, and his wife, Mrs. Mary Hapgood, arrived in town tonight to attend the meeting.

MAY SAVE MILLS AT SOUTHBRIDGE

Merchants and Workers
Pin Hope on State Board
Meeting Tomorrow

PICKETS CONTINUE
DUTY ABOUT PLANT

[Special Dispatch to The Herald]

SOUTHBRIDGE, Dec. 12 — Faced with the closing or the removal of the mills of the Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc., and the consequent loss of employment to 1000 persons as the result of three strikes since Labor day, town officials, merchants and mill workers are pinning their last hope on a meeting to be held at the town hall Friday at 10 A. M. before the state board of arbitration and conciliation.

While representatives of the mill management in Boston declared that they are definitely through with strikes, violence and threats of injury and are determined either to have the mill closed or to have it removed elsewhere, local agents expressed the hope that a reconciliation of the workers and the management may yet be brought about.

ELY ANSWERS WATT

Meanwhile, as a direct result of the deadlock that threatens this town with the loss of its second largest industry, from the State House Gov. Ely replied to the charges of Robert J. Watt, secretary of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, that the Governor will have hard work to justify the appointment of his secretary, Dewitt C. DeWolf, as state commissioner of labor and industries.

"If you believe in conciliation, why don't you conciliate?" the Governor retorted. He had charged Watt with following a policy that threatens the removal from the state of some of the leading manufacturing plants, and with carrying on strikes as representative of a disgruntled minority of the workers.

Friday morning's meeting will be the most important public gathering in the history of the town, which was regarded as one of the most prosperous communities in the country during the height of the depression.

An attempt will be made to determine the causes of the strike and to fix the responsibility for its continuance. Business men, town officials, workers and all the citizens are determined to make

every effort to straighten out the difficulties, feeling that if they fail Southbridge will suffer heavily from the loss of the mill's \$1,000,000 annual pay roll and \$40,000 annual taxes.

PICTURES BLOW TO TOWN

"The board of selectmen doesn't want the mill to close or move, because of the loss of the pay roll and because we feel that if we lose the plant the present tax rate of \$37.50 will have to be raised to from \$45 to \$50," said J. Edward Demer, chairman of the selectmen.

"Loss of the Hamilton mill will cripple half the town," he declared.

Although the mill was officially closed today, and only a skeleton crew remained at work finishing runs of cloth in the looms, Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the local of the U. T. W. A. and leader of the strike, refused to withdraw the picket lines. One picket was arrested on charge of assaulting a policeman. He was Anthony Stypulkowski, 21, of 110 Sturbridge road.

CASES OF 7 CONTINUED

The cases against six other strikers and one worker, all charged with assault, were ordered continued to Monday in the district court. The cases of 40 strikers arrested during the past month are awaiting hearing before the superior court.

For 120 years before this fall the Hamilton Woolen Company mills have operated without labor troubles. The first local strikes were those at the plants of the Southbridge Finishing Company and the Sturbridge Finishing Company, both operated by Golding Brothers of New York.

The national textile strike brought organizers here from other communities, and local 2324 was organized with the following officers: Miss Jean Gauthier, president; Miss Catherine Riley, vice-president; Paul Vermiere, secretary; Mrs. Eva Labonte, treasurer.

DISCRIMINATION CHARGED

Alleging discrimination against workers who had walked out during the national textile strike, the officers of the local called the present strike Nov. 14. At a recent meeting 400 workers voted to stand by the order to continue the strike, 31 favored a return to work and approximately 690 remained at their work, ignoring the strike orders.

The "closed shop" is the major issue. Richard Lennihan, president of the mill, issued a statement in which he declared that he would move the mill elsewhere rather than concede to a "closed shop" agreement.

After a week of effort, the state board of arbitration and conciliation announced the deadlock was hopeless.

Miss Gauthier, whose home was stoned a week ago, said she has received three threats against her life. In each case where the property of union leaders has been damaged, repairs have been made at the expense of the president of the Hamilton Woolen Company, who insisted on paying for all damages. Lennihan at present is in New York.

CAUSES ALARM IN SOUTHBRIDGE

Mill Head Resigns from Bank
—Seen as Step Toward
Leaving Town

SOUTHBRIDGE, Dec. 13—Consternation spread through this town tonight with the announcement that Richard Lennihan, president of the Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc., had resigned as president of the Southbridge Savings Bank, an office he has held for a year.

PUBLIC STRIKE IS HELD, BU

THE BOSTON HERALD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1934

TRAGEDY AT SOUTHBRIDGE

For a famous industry, founded more than a century ago, employing a thousand persons and running full time to fill accumulated orders, an industry on which in large measure the security of a town of 15,000 depends, to quit business and abandon its plant is a tragic event. That is what is happening at Southbridge. Raw materials and finished goods alike are on board trucks leaving town. The Hamilton Woolen Company is unable to operate its mills in peace because a minority of its employes have used violent measures for the intimidation of the majority who want to work.

The mill never has imported a single strike-breaker. There is no issue at stake between management and strikers as to either wages or stretchout. The mill never has violated the code in any particular. The majority of the workers do not want a closed shop. The management is fully willing to deal with its employes through representatives of their own choosing whoever they may be. The minority demand, the management refuses, the closed shop, but will bargain collectively according to 7A. The employers have posted a notice, "You are not obliged to join a union in order to work in this mill," and refused the demand of "organizers" to take it down. It should be noted that the

state board of conciliation and arbitration and the federal department of labor alike have sustained the position of the management. These matters could be adjusted were peace and quiet restored.

The crux of the trouble apparently lies in the refusal of the mill to discharge about 150 new employes and take back a corresponding number of old ones. That situation is easy to explain. At the time of the general strike there was no home-made strike in Southbridge. Foreign agitators practically compelled a suspension for three days. The mill took back every employe. The "organizers" stayed on the ground and obtained some sort of nucleus for a union. There was a further suspension, a "strike" the organizers called it, and again the management took back every worker. But when yet a third interruption came the mill took on several scores of workers who lived in Southbridge or the immediate neighborhood, most of them former employes. The new union declared all must be taken back. That made an ugly issue, and thus matters stood, when repeated outbreaks of violence caused the present deadlock.

These are the elements of the situation. If all parties to the conflict awake in time to the seriousness of it, a permanent tragedy may possibly be averted.

The Lesson of the Strike

EDITORIAL

Mitchell Kazmiroski, good weaver and steady workman, is dead by his own hand and his death symbolizes and epitomizes the misfortune that has overtaken everyone connected with woolen manufacture in Southbridge.

Depressed by the experiences through which he had lived during the past few weeks—demonstrations of anger and hatred, the stoning of homes, and the threats of personal violence—and disheartened by the abrupt loss of his job, he took the short way out of his troubles.

Mr. Kazmiroski is dead, and so is all hope that the Hamilton Woolen Co. will ever resume operations in Southbridge. The strike leaders might as well picket a cemetery as the idle mills in Globe Village.

As former employes look forward to Christmas and a long winter of uncertainty they will recall how the trouble began.

A general strike in the cotton textile industry had been ordered early in September, but it was generally understood that no attempt would be made to interfere with woolen mills.

On the night of Wednesday, Sept. 5, scores of demonstrators from outside places drove into Southbridge in cars and began menacing activities around the two cotton finishing plants and the mills of the Hamilton Woolen Co.

Strike activity had previously begun in the former, but at the Hamilton mills there had been no sign of trouble, and no one expected any to develop.

On the morning of Thursday, Sept. 6, with everyone quietly employed and with no workers seeking trouble, a hundred raiders from out of town besieged the Hamilton plant with yells and threats: "Shut this mill or we'll shut it for you!"

Believing some sort of violent attack might be made, Pres. Richard Lennihan decided to dismiss all the workers at the lunch hour and shut down until the troublesome guests departed from town.

That afternoon a mass meeting was held at the Dresser street playground, called by the heads of the flying squadrons, and employes of the finishing plants and the Hamilton mill were invited. Hot speeches were made, and many signed up for union membership.

When the Hamilton Woolen Co., which regarded itself as a bystander injured in the cotton mill strike, decided to resume operations the management found that a union had been started among some of its employes, with grievances, demands, and an incipient strike ready to spring.

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration managed with some difficulty to get the strike settled, and the group of workers involved went back to their jobs. Soon it was heard that the former strikers were disturbed because they believed preference in working conditions was being given workers who had not struck or joined the union.

This led to grievances which could not be readily adjusted, and there were rumors of another strike. Union leaders had promised the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration that no strike would be called without first giving the board a chance to come back for renewed effort. This promise was ignored or forgotten. A secret strike vote was taken, and union members were suddenly called out, without notice to anyone, on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Then followed picketing and stoning of homes of workers who wished to continue in their jobs. The State board renewed its efforts, but could make no headway in the face of demands for a closed shop, higher wages, reduction of machine load, and re-hiring of all strikers.

On Nov. 19 the Hamilton management issued a public statement saying it would shut down rather than operate under a closed shop arrangement, or under conditions threatening the safety of workers in the mills.

It presently became apparent that while half or more of the employes were working, or willing to work, a shortage of hands in the weave shed was tending to choke off production. The strikers concentrated their efforts on the weavers and succeeded in keeping more and more of them from reporting for duty.

LIKE HEARING T TOO LATE

The trouble culminated Monday afternoon, when excitement in the picket line at closing time led to disturbances and the arrest of five persons. When officers took the five to police headquarters, a crowd of about 150 strikers followed them to the station, and a sixth arrest was made. The demonstration was noisy, but not threatening.

Because of crippled operations and growing disturbances, the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co., at a meeting in Boston, decided Monday they had no choice but to close the mill indefinitely. News of the shut-down reached Southbridge at 3 p.-m. Tuesday, and the order went into effect at 3:30.

The decision was a stunning blow to Southbridge—to workers, strikers, and townspeople alike. When public-spirited citizens pleaded with the management to regard the shut-down as temporary only, they found an irrevocable decision had been made to wind up the business.

Embittered by the manner in which the strike had been started by flying squadrons, and by the uncompromising attitude of outside organizers and leaders who urged the local strikers to fight to the last ditch for their demands, and certain in their own minds the strike had so crippled the efficiency and morale of the mills that the days of Hamilton prosperity were over, for an indefinite period at any rate, the directors remained firm.

Pleas from members of the Manufacturers and Merchants association to remember loyal workers and the welfare of everyone in Southbridge were unavailing. The company had given its warning on Nov. 19, and the officers believed it was not properly heeded, so they hold.

The suicide of Mitchell Kazmiroski has emphasized the gravity of all the dramatic events of the past few weeks, and has focused public attention sharply on those responsible for the strike, for the failure to bring adjustment, and for the abrupt and tragic conclusion.

The outside organizers who have brought down in ruins one of our largest industries will have to answer to the workers they encouraged to continue a prolonged strike in a time of depression. The organizers may think they have won a battle, but the strikers know the cost to themselves. Today they are casualties—people without work or prospects.

On the other hand, Southbridge will believe the mill owners—despite their provocations—might have shown greater patience, and a greater degree of consideration for the loyal employees who endured taunts and jeers and risked night attacks in order to keep the wheels turning.

THE NEWS does NOT believe Richard Lennihan is personally responsible for the decision to go out of business. This view is shared by others in Southbridge who are in position to draw informed conclusions.

The buildings of the Hamilton Woolen Co. will soon be empty. They will undoubtedly remain so unless the threat of future labor troubles is completely eliminated.

The News is not alone in Southbridge in believing in justice and fair play for working people, and for a sincere consideration of the rights and feelings of those who have to depend upon the weekly pay envelope.

Employers and workers should be considerate of one another. They should try to understand each other's problems. They have a common interest in promoting the welfare of the industry they serve, and they will be happiest and most successful when they adhere to ways of patience and consideration in solving the inevitable problems of employment.

Lennihan Tells State Board Hamilton Mill Is Closed Definitely

Union Bares Charges of Discrimination and Unequal Distribution of Work; Claims Company Told Of Impending Walkout After Local Strike Vote

Chief Points at the Hearing

Joseph Sylvia and strikers develop uncontradicted testimony of cases of discrimination involving work distribution.

Richard Lennihan declares strike was illegally called, that some strikers sought to damage work in process on leaving, and that he was not notified in advance of final strike. He announces a full week's pay will be given every loyal worker before Christmas.

Joseph Sylvia announced he would appeal State board's findings to National Labor Relations board if not satisfied with decision.

Amid scenes of tension and excitement Richard Lennihan announced to the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration and a huge audience at Town hall today that the final effort to settle the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co. had come too late. The mill has been finally closed.

Earlier, Joseph Sylvia had spoken for the strikers, and had called a number of witnesses to testify they had been discriminated against when taken back to work after the earlier strikes had been settled.

Mr. Sylvia made no effort to develop any reasons for the inception of the strike trouble, except to say that it began in consequence of a union vote for a general textile strike, taken Aug. 14 in New York.

The general strike began on the Tuesday morning following Labor Day, but Hamilton workers did not leave their employment until the following Thursday, when they were temporarily sent home by the management as a safety measure, to escape possible violence from flying squadrons.

The public hearing in Town hall had been called for 10 a. m. by the State board, comprised of Chairman Edward Fisher, John L. Campos, representing labor, and Raymond V. McNamara, representing industry.

Soon after 7 o'clock crowds began to gather. Strikers were first on the scene, and they occupied most of the seats in the front and center sections of the hall. An equal number of loyal workers arrived later and took seats in the rear and in the gallery.

Decorated in holiday trimmings for the Rotary club's big party to-night, the hall presented a gay appearance. The audience appeared in good spirits, although the tension was clearly felt—tension which manifested itself a little later in cheers, hisses, and boos as the hearing proceeded.

Sylvia to Appeal

Near the close of the session, Mr. Sylvia announced that if the finding of the State board was not acceptable to his associates and himself, he would appeal the case to the National Labor Relations Board.

The meeting was slow to begin and the crowd of nearly 1,500 persons, crowding every corner of the auditorium, was impatient. Strikers cheered and applauded as leaders in their ranks appeared at the hall.

John L. Campos, of Fall River, the representative of labor on the State board, was the first member to arrive.

Company Heads Arrive

The woolen company management arrived in a body at 10 a.

m. and retired to the Selectmen's office to await the arrival of the other members of the State board. Included in the woolen company group were Richard Lennihan, president; Ross G. Walker, treasurer; James Sutcliffe, superintendent, and B. Loring Young, counsel and a director.

Nearly every Boston newspaper was represented by staff men and photographers to cover the hearing. The hearing was the final drastic step ordered by the State board to fix responsibility for calling the strike and its continuance.

The vocal demonstrations continued as time passed, workers booing strikers and union members shouting catcalls at those who had remained in the p until it closed last Tuesday.

Send Out for Doughnuts

Intense interest was shown in the hearing, more than 100 persons having assembled at Town hall before 8 a. m.

As noon approached and the hearing still was delayed, some of those in the auditorium sent out for doughnuts.

Union officials were given a

as ovation when they entered the hall at 11:45 a. m. led by Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local of the U. T. W. A. The State board and the management followed immediately. Company workers rose to their feet to cheer their employers. Excitement ran high.

Chairman Edward Fisher, opening the session, said he hoped the enthusiasm had been expended because a very, very serious situation confronted the Commonwealth and Southbridge. "If anything is said that causes your enthusiasm or resentment," he added, "you should remain silent."

Fifth Trip to Town

"If the hearing can't be conducted without disturbances, we will have to adjourn it."

The duties of the board were given by the chairman. He said it was the board's fifth trip to Southbridge.

"The situation now is at the stage where neither conciliation nor arbitration can be effected, but the State board is not going to halt its efforts."

An unsuccessful attempt was made to settle the differences between strikers and mill officials this morning, he said, but the board would continue its efforts to keep this mill in Southbridge regardless of which party was to blame for the walkout and continuance of the strike.

The board has no power to order the company to reopen the mill, Mr. Fisher pointed out, nor can it order the strikers to return to work.

Sylvia Speaks First

"We issue a written statement as to who is to blame for the strike and its continuance," the chairman said. "This hearing will continue on the basis of hearing the facts."

Employees out on strike were the first to present their case, all testimony being given under oath.

Joseph Sylvia, New England U. T. W. A. organizer, was called first.

"In September a general strike was called in the textile industry," he said. "It was called by workers and not union leaders. The Hamilton company went out, too, and returned by order of the President. It was agreed all would return to work and there would be no discrimination."

Mr. Sylvia said that it was because of unfairness on the part of the company in distributing work that the employees walked out the second time. The strike was short and employees returned with the promise of equal distribution of work, he said.

Continuing his review, he said he would submit evidence of discrimination in which union members received but two hours' work each week while non-union employees were given a full week. His references were to the situation after the second strike.

He said conferences concerning grievances were held without avail, the last parley having been held 10 days before the third walkout.

Mr. Sylvia said the strike could be settled in five minutes.

"All we ask," he said, "is equalization of work, the right to organize, and the return of strikers to their original positions."

Praises Roosevelt

He lauded the President for eliminating cut-throat competition and cited Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act as giving labor the right to organize.

He told the State board that if the plant management had not disregarded Section 7-A and had met and given consideration to its organized workers, there would have been no walkout.

Four Women Testify

Mr. Sylvia insisted his organization was not in favor of strikes and added the union cared for the welfare of its members.

Four women were summoned to the stage to testify non-union workers were given the preference in the distribution of work. Testimony was given that before the general strike early in September and for about three years preceding that time, workers had been accustomed to running only four sides of a loom although if they wished they could operate five sides.

After the general strike, it was indicated, they were compelled to run five sides. Testimony was given that Miss Stephanie Dumichelle of Webster had been laid off for four weeks because she would not operate five sides.

Worked Four Hours

Miss Stella Tetreault, another union member, testified under oath there was unequal distribution of work. She said that during one week, she had received only four hours' employment while non-union workers were employed three or four days.

"If the company is ready to treat everybody equally," Mr. Sylvia offered after the four women had left the platform, "we are ready to send our people back to work."

Paul Vermiere, Anthony da-Dalt, Albert Tavernier, Paul Boxser, Leo Morin, Emma Julian and Anna Rivera comprised another group of union witnesses.

Mr. Morin, who testified under oath he was a weaver, said he had been transferred to chain-building at a weaver's pay and because a chain-builder had seen his check, computed at a higher rate than that customarily paid for the operation, he had been laid off for a week.

Cites Discrimination

Mr. Vermiere told the State board he had seen one woman operating seven looms and was sure she had been running eight before he entered the weave shop.

Mrs. Julian, who claimed she had worked for the company for 28 years as a spare weaver, told the board she had reported for work one day following the general strike and had been sent home. She said she later discovered a non-union spare weaver had been called and given work, a case of discrimination.

Mr. Sylvia explained such testimony could be continued for hours but it merely would corroborate evidence already given and hence was unnecessary.

Miss Gauthier was summoned to the platform and testified the company had promised on three or four occasions following meetings with the union grievance committee it would remedy complaints. She added she did not know of a single instance in which a grievance had been adjusted, despite the promises.

She insisted when questioned by Mr. Fisher all the complaints were justifiable and that the major problem was the equal distribution of work.

Notice was Given

Raymond V. McNamara of Haverhill, representative of employers of labor on the State board, asked her if the company had been notified of the strike. Miss Gauthier replied notice had been given the firm.

Ira Dickens, central Massachusetts organizer of the U. T. W. A., said a strike vote had been taken by the Hamilton local nearly two weeks before the walkout had been called. He said Mr. Lennihan had been notified that unless grievances were adjusted, a strike would be called the following Thursday morning.

He then said a member of the Board of Selectmen had gone to Miss Gauthier's house, bringing a message that Mr. Lennihan had agreed to take back all union members within 10 days. The Selectman, he said, not mentioning his name, had asked that the strike be delayed until the expiration of the 10 days.

Mr. Sylvia, resting the union case, again repeated the company had been notified of the strike, that it was called by a strike vote of the Hamilton local and that the walkout could be settled if all workers were treated like men and women and work were equalized.

Outside Parties

His insistence that there was a local strike vote apparently was to check reports the walkout had been called by parties outside Southbridge.

Mr. McNamara asked Jean Gauthier: "Did you notify the mill management before the last strike was called?" She replied: "We said we would strike if our grievances were not settled."

Mr. Sylvia asked her: "Did the Selectman ask you to wait 10

days before striking on the promise of helping get a settlement of grievances?" "Yes," was the answer.

Chairman Fisher: "Did you wait 10 days as agreed?"

Miss Gauthier: "No. We waited eight days. We heard they were hiring new people."

Call on Lennihan

Ira Dickens of Worcester related that a strike vote was taken on a Sunday night. On Monday, he said, he and other strike leaders called on Mr. Lennihan to discuss grievances, and to say a strike would be called Thursday if the grievances were not adjusted by Wednesday.

Then came the request for the 10-day wait by the Selectman. The union agreed, but the strike came in eight days.

George Laplante called from the rear of the hall he had a question, and was summoned to the platform. He wished Mr. Dickens to justify the legality of the final walkout order when Miss Gauthier was herself at work at the time and knew nothing about it until she was called out with the rest.

Mr. Laplante's question threw the hall into excitement, as it indicated the final strike was called by outsiders and not by local officers of the union.

Mr. Dickens stood silent, and Mr. Sylvia replied for him. "It is none of your business," he said heatedly, "who took the strike vote or who called the strike." He concluded that he was interested in the welfare of the members of the union, and not in that of strike-breakers, and that he regarded himself as the instrument of the President of the United States in trying to fulfill the President's desire.

Pres. Richard Lennihan presented the case for the company, first reading a statement which had been issued early in the strike, setting forth the issues.

He did not attempt to reply to any of the charges of discrimination that had comprised the entire case of the strikers, but examined the steps leading to the final strike.

Blames Flying Squadrons

Mr. Lennihan pointed out that the Hamilton strike was not related to the general textile strike, but was imposed upon the workers by flying squadrons that closed the mill by intimidation.

Mr. Fisher asked if Mr. Lennihan had been informed of the strike vote before the final strike, and he declared he had not been. Questioned further by Mr. Fisher, he said approximately 610 persons were working in the mill up to a week or so ago.

Excellent attention was given while Mr. Lennihan read his statement to the board, as follows:

"This meeting has been called to consider the relations of the Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc. and its employees. I am sorry to say that it is too late to do anything about those relations. The Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc. has closed its mill much against its will, because it was forced to do so."

Gives Background

"My understanding of the facts leading up to this decision is this:

"In 1927 the Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc. was losing money rapidly and the question of closing the mill was receiving serious consideration. The group which constitutes the present management did not think the mill should be closed. They opposed the views of a former management, took the fight to a stockholders' meeting in February 1928, won out and continued the operation of the mill."

"The mill has operated from that time until last Tuesday. It was at first a struggle but loyal support from the employees and good co-operation between employees and the executive forces made possible what at first seemed at least doubtful and the record of the company during the five years of depression has been one in which I believe every one or at least nearly every one in the organization has taken a real satisfaction."

"Employment has been steady compared to that in most similar enterprises and our financial condition which at first was very

difficult has become stable. These conditions continued until September 1934, two days after the general textile strike started elsewhere.

"On the evening of September 5 so-called flying squads came into town. Violence started. Employees were intimidated and the mill closed to prevent injury to persons and property. From that time on there has been much unrest. The mill was opened in response to the request of the President of the United States and every one taken back as fast as production made this possible."

Oral Agreement

"On September 27 a strike was called accompanied by violence. On the following Monday again every one that could be put to work was taken back under an oral agreement with union representatives and your board that all disputes which could not be settled with the management would be submitted to the State Board before a strike could be called. On November 14 although the management had not heard of any cases in dispute a strike was called."

"The company has always recognized the rights of its employees stated by Section 7a of the National Industrial Recovery Act, to organize, to join any union and to be represented by leaders of their own choosing. A minority of the employees of the Company joined the strike. The demands made by spokesmen for the strikers in substance required that the functions of selection, discipline and retention of employees be surrendered to a union of which a minority of the employees of the Company were members."

Issues Statement

"On November 19 the company issued a statement in which it set forth that it was not willing to continue to operate in Southbridge under conditions which threatened the safety of the lives and property of its employees and their families and that it would not attempt to operate a closed shop."

"In spite of police protection the violence has continued, the lives and property of the employees and their families have been in jeopardy. Under the conditions successful operation of the mill is impossible either from the point of view of the employee who did not wish to join the union or of the owners. In accordance with the statement made on November 19 the Company has definitely decided to close the mill permanently."

"To those employees whose co-operation during the years since 1927 has made our success possible and to the citizens of the Town of Southbridge in which I have lived and worked for over seven years and where I had hoped to spend the rest of my life I can only say that my regret is as great, if not greater than that of any one else that this decision should have been forced upon me as well as upon my associates."

Agrees With Decision

"But I agree with the decision—where people who wish to work cannot do so safely without danger to themselves or their families to say nothing of their property the management cannot take the responsibility. When the management of a company is no longer in the hands of those that are responsible for its success it is impossible to continue operating."

Mr. Sylvia had some questions waiting for Mr. Lennihan.

"Do you pay higher wages or is your machine load lower than in comparable mills?" The answer: "That cannot be answered without an examination of State and national records."

The next question: "Have you been organizing a company union in your mills?" Mr. Lennihan replied that the company had taken no step of any kind to form an inside union. This was greeted with cheers from the loyal workers.

Calls Strike Illegal

Chairman Fisher stated he had received a petition from employees asking to be heard, and he invited representatives to come to the platform. George Laplante, Mrs.

...and Richard Cooper, a foreman, responded.

Mr. Laplante testified to the illegality of the strike, and Mrs. Curboy, given a great deal of booing and razzing by the strikers, stated that although a member of the union before the last strike was called, she had no knowledge of any strike plans before being called out. She was congratulated on her courage by Loring Young as she left the platform.

Mr. Cooper said he had been a foreman at the Hamilton mills for 12 years, and he challenged anyone present to prove he had ever discriminated against any worker, union or otherwise.

Will Continue Efforts

In concluding the hearing just before 2 p. m., Mr. Fisher said the State board was going to do everything within its jurisdiction to keep the Hamilton Woolen Co. in Southbridge despite the emphatic statement of Mr. Lennihan to the contrary.

Mr. Fisher pointed out the evidence given at the public hearing was but part of the testimony which the board has at its command. He reminded the audience the board also was in possession of information obtained at two conferences held here during the present strike.

He said the board would make its report as quickly as possible, in the meantime adhering to its policy of striving without cessation to settle the strike by conciliating differences. He indicated all hope had not been abandoned although it might appear as if the board were seeking to do the "impossible."

UNIONIST ENDORSES GOVERNOR'S STAND

Special Correspondence

BOSTON, Dec. 14—Gov. Joseph B. Ely has received a letter indorsing his position in his controversy with Robert J. Watt, labor leader, arising from the textile strike in Southbridge, from H. M. Comerford, secretary of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers of Boston.

Comerford said:

"While we have not always agreed with you on matters of State appointments and also on other matters on which you have rendered decisions, we do at this time want to congratulate you upon the stand you have taken.

"For your information, Watt does not represent all the labor organizations of the State, and never will, because of his method of doing business. When men who represent labor think that they are the only ones who can judge matters affecting the worker rightly, and that no one else is right who does not agree with them, they become dangerous to the community."

TRIAL OF WOMAN WORKER DELAYED

The trial of Mrs. Jennie Labonte, 37, of 13 Ballard ct., arrested last Tuesday near the Hamilton Woolen Co. for allegedly assaulting a picket, Mrs. Albertina Gaumont, 37, of 87 Mill st., was continued until Monday in District court today.

Mrs. Labonte was a worker at the mill until it closed indefinitely Tuesday afternoon.

Mosher Quits as Hamilton Director Because He Opposes Closing of Mill

A report having become current that Ira M. Mosher would resign from the directorate of the Hamilton Woolen Co., THE NEWS has learned that Mr. Mosher yesterday dispatched the following letter of resignation:

December 13, 1934.

Mr. Thomas P. Beal,
Chairman Board of Directors,
Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc.,
C/o Second National Bank,
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Mr. Beal:

In view of my opposition to the closing of the mill in Southbridge, and particularly the steps taken in this respect without any regard for normal obligations to loyal employees of the organization, I cannot continue to serve as a Director of the Hamilton Woolen Company.

Will you, therefore, please accept this as my resignation from the board, to take effect immediately.

Yours truly,

(Signed) IRA M. MOSHER.

Hamilton Woolen Co. May Liquidate

At a meeting of the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. to be held next Tuesday in Boston, the question of liquidating the assets of the company and winding up the business will be acted upon. Such is the pass to which the continued striking and violence has brought this community. If the company goes out of business or even removes to another place, this town will receive the hardest blow that has come to it in the whole 119 years of its corporate existence, and the section of the town known as Globe Village, where the mills are located will revert to its primitive status with a tremendous drop in real estate values, while the entire community will get a setback from which it will never recover. With the Hamilton Woolen mills passing out of the picture, the town has left as its greatest asset and support the American Optical Co. The number of employees at the Hamilton mills before the labor troubles began last September was over 1100, and the plant was never in better shape to go forward in a long period of expansion and prosperity. But the end seems to have arrived, and a disastrous end it is.

Strike Hearing Jams Town Hall State Board Here in Final Effort to Bring Peace Fourth Time State Board Has Tried All Hope for Ending Today

The selectmen received a request Wednesday from the state board of arbitration and conciliation to place at their disposal for today the town hall, at which time the board will hold a public hearing on the Hamilton Woolen Co. strike of employees. The selectmen placed the hall in readiness.

The state board arrived here at 10 o'clock this forenoon. With all the information that it could gather from both sides of the question, everything was in readiness for the public hearing.

The state board had made three previous visits to the town, met the management of the mills and committees representing the local union. Each time the meetings were indecisive, and the board returned to Boston to report to Gov. Ely.

The bone of contention, the one dominating demand among several from the union, was a closed shop. However that may be, the strike continued, even after more than 700 of the employees had returned to work. With the weavers not returning and likewise the loom fixers, the whole

manufacturing process at the mills was thrown out of balance, and rather than continue longer under such conditions, and the daily scenes staged by the minority of former employees, brought about a condition that made it incumbent upon the management to close the mill completely. This being done, and a large number of orders being relinquished by the company, an indefinite shutdown was the only course left. The company is making arrangements to have orders that can't wait, if there are any such, filled elsewhere.

It is expected that before today's hearing in the town hall is concluded everyone will have a chance to speak who so desires. Following that the board of arbitration and conciliation will be in a position to say something. The answer of the board may not come today, as it is probable that some time will be given for consideration.

It is expected that the board in its final report will in its judgment fix the blame in the controversy.

Mr. Fisher, chairman of the board

said the situation here was serious and that his board had attempted on three occasions to settle the strike, but all attempts were unsuccessful.

"There is no other course left," said Mr. Fisher, "except to conform to the laws and make the final attempt at settlement and if not successful hold a hearing and fix the blame."

Despite the pending deliberations of the state board in a final effort, the strikers continue to picket the mills.

Washington, Dec. 13—The Textile Labor board today dispatched John Chumbley, a field investigator, to Southbridge, Mass., to attempt to settle the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Mills. The board has had Miss Weinstock, a Labor Department conciliator, at the strike, but so far her efforts to arrange a settlement have been unsuccessful.

Hamilton Mills Weaver Hangs Himself

Family Declare He Was Driven To It By Threats Had Remained at His Looms During the Strike

Mitchell Kasmierski, aged 53 years, a weaver who remained at his work at the Hamilton mills throughout the trying weeks of the strike there, and who was subjected to threats, as stated by those close to him, finished it all so far as he was concerned early yesterday morning. He declined breakfast, and a little while after went to the attic of his home at 110 Mill street (Broadway) and there hung himself. His son, who went to the attic a short time after found the body of his father dangling at the end of a clothes line. Besides his son he leaves his wife.

Upon the discovery of the body,

the police were notified and a detail of state officers went to the scene. Medical Examiner Albert J. McCrea viewed the body and permitted it to be removed.

Those close to Mr. Kasmierski say that he was in a most troubled state of mind by reason of the jibes and threats of bodily harm directed toward him because he did not join the strikers.

He had been in the employ of the company for six years and had formerly lived in Philadelphia. He was regarded as an excellent weaver and faithful about his work. His only son is also a weaver.

HAMILTON MILLS CLOSED

Demands of Strikers and Violent Tactics Force Issue

Gov. Ely Declares Walkout Illegal Weeks of Strain and Turbulence Ended

The daily spectacle of shouting, jeering and threatening throngs at Globe Village came to an abrupt and ominous close Tuesday afternoon, and for the first time since the mill strikers went out weeks ago, the town awoke Wednesday morning in an atmosphere of unwonted quietness.

Of the 700 hands that have been at their jobs through the trying times of recent weeks, despite the pain and mental distress that the strikers have imposed on them, all left sadly, reluctantly, when the management of the 100 year old local industry, informed them that they could go no further with the manufacturing processes. The help realized the impossible conditions imposed upon the company by the demands of the union, instigated by out of town and even out of state leaders.

Training in the wake of distant advisors came a noisy, irresponsible contingent of agitators, doing more harm to the local union than can be easily estimated.

Let President Lennihan's telegram to the company's customers explain why the 700 hands went dejectedly home to their families Tuesday evening.

The telegram:—"As you may know from press reports, 'Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc. has been subjected to its third strike since Labor Day. For the past several weeks we have continued operations to the best of our ability in the face of violence and other most difficult conditions. Certain of our departments are now almost completely disorganized and there was further serious violence to employees yesterday.

Therefore, we are regretfully obliged to close down our mill. Deliveries, as specified in your orders, have been impossible by these strike conditions. You may prefer to cancel your orders. If, however, you will accept very late deliveries, and so advise us, we will

endeavor to arrange for the manufacture elsewhere, of as much of the merchandise on order, as practicable. Wire answer collect." Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc. By Richard Lennihan, president."

Strike Illegal

The announcement came almost at the same time that Gov. Ely made public in Boston a letter to Robert J. Watt, secretary of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, attacking Watt's charges that state troopers had been used as strike breakers here and elsewhere.

In his letter Gov. Ely charged Watt with pursuing policies which "seem to have resulted in sending out of this commonwealth a large number of businesses," and declared that, particularly in the case of the Hamilton Woolen Co. labor troubles, the strike "is illegal and being conducted by a minority of the employees contrary to the provisions of 7A and in the face of collective bargaining."

Gov. Ely Denounces Watt

In a letter dated December 7, Secretary Watt, charging that state troopers had been used as strike breakers at Dudley, Southbridge, Ludlow and other communities, called on Gov. Ely "to put the state police back to work apprehending criminals instead of coercing citizens."

Gov. Ely's reply was as follows:

The state police are not used as strike breakers as you allege, but for the protection of the citizens of the various communities and at the request of the local authorities.

It has seemed to me for some time from your public utterances and your political methods and your attempt to dictate the personnel of the division of labor and industries that you had lost sight of the broad policies of that department and the obligations which the chief executive owes to protect all the people of Massachusetts and to treat them with equal justice.

Some Hurting Labor

My imagination is sufficiently elas-

tic and active to reach the conclusion that some of the men who claim to represent labor are doing it more harm than good, that you incite difficulty without obtaining results for those whom you claim to represent.

The policies which you have pursued during the last few years seem to have resulted in sending out of this commonwealth a large number of businesses which if remaining here could have furnished reasonable employment to a great number of men and women. My imagination is sufficiently elastic to appreciate that the policies which you have pursued have enabled you to maintain your job while others were losing theirs, but no one in this community or any other seems to have sufficient courage to tell it to you.

One of the paragraphs of your letter seeks to inflame the working men and women of this state by endeavoring to represent that flying squadrons, and public servants on horseback with night sticks, are intimidating the peace loving citizens of the various communities.

Decidedly Untrue

This is decidedly untrue. The fact is that in the Hamilton mills there are 740 employees at work, that your strike is illegal and being conducted by a minority of the employees contrary to the provisions of 7-A and in the face of collective bargaining. The arbitration board has offered a proper and reasonable solution to this difficulty and agreeable to the federal authorities and agreeable to the national leaders of the textile union.

I am forced to believe that the venom of your letter rests upon your inability to dictate my appointments and not upon any just cause of complaint against them as to the performance of their duties. Perhaps the consideration which you personally have been shown during the four years of my administration, both in the conduct of the department of labor and industries and in the selection of you personally for various committee assignments of responsibility, has led you to believe that your abilities are greater than they really should be appraised, and has led you into thinking that you are an indispensable part of the government of this commonwealth.

State Board Gives Facts

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, headed by Chairman Edward Fisher, conferred with Gov. Ely. Chairman Fisher was called to give the governor all the facts in the case. He stated that on three different occasions members of the State Board of Conciliation had been in conference with either the strikers or the employers at Southbridge, in an endeavor to bring about a settlement. In the last attempt made, the board suggested to the strikers that they return to work under a plan submitted by the board, but the offer was refused, Fisher said.

Governor Ely and Chairman Fisher would not comment on the conference, but the latter indicated that he felt the board had made but little progress in the effort to adjust the strikes and saw no immediate opportunity for future adjustment.

Protest against the use of state police as "strike breakers" in Dudley, Southbridge, Ludlow and other Massachusetts towns was made by the executive council of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor in a letter to Gov. Ely by Robert J. Watt, legislative agent.

"We protest against the diversion of public funds to subsidize private business in the violation of the textile strike agreement," the letter, signed by Watt, read. "We realize that representations may have been made to you that the presence of the state police serves to maintain public order. If such representations were made, we regret that no notice was afforded the citizens affected to present their side of the case before you ordered the state constabulary into action."

National Textile Board Agent Certain Strike Can be Settled

Lennihan Agrees to Meet Chumbley Concerning Mill Re-Opening

SELECTMEN TO ACT State Police, Cut to 20 In Number, to Remain In Southbridge

With the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration admitting it was attempting what was seemingly impossible—the attainment of peace in the Hamilton Woolen Co. strike—the attention of Southbridge today was focused on the optimistic John Chumbley, the smiling representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, who slipped unobtrusively into town Thursday, listened to the testimony given at yesterday's public hearing and then said he felt the company and its striking union employees were not so far apart they could not be brought together.

Undismayed by the assertion of Richard Lennihan, president of the Globe Village concern, that the mill had closed irrevocably, Mr. Chumbley, a large-framed good-looking lawyer who possesses a persuasive tongue and obvious sincerity, asked Mr. Lennihan to meet him and discuss the situation.

Wants All Facts

Mr. Lennihan acquiesced, saying he would go wherever necessary to consult with the textile mediator.

Mr. Chumbley made it apparent at once he favored neither employees nor the employers. He wanted facts, all the facts. When he has them, he feels there can be no failure, that the strike will be settled and the mill will not cease operations.

Imbued with a feeling the nation cannot tumble back into the blough of the depression, he frankly said in an interview everybody, worker and owner alike, must support the President and that he, as a peace-maker, would do everything possible to retain for Southbridge an industry so important to its economic life.

LET THEM LOOK AT RUSSIA

(John R. Robertson in a letter to the Boston Herald)

It would be a long step in the right direction, if the Governor's admirable letter on the Southbridge strike and the mistaken attitude behind it could be read once a day to workingmen in all parts of the country until they had digested the ideas which it set forth so clearly. With conditions necessitating part-time employment and reduced wages in many industries, we have yet to hear of any great sacrifices made by the so-called labor leaders. Perhaps they feel that they have had enough extra shouting to do during the depression to warrant continuance of their high salary scale. If they cannot hold their jobs only by unreasonable measures, they should be advised by labor that false prophets are no longer necessary.

The leaders, of all shades from the lily white to the red, shout of "capitalist bosses" and "Cosacks" whenever a strike begins to get out of hand. The use of the rather hackneyed Russian figures seems to give more weight to what is really feeble ballyhoo, and the insinuations of class struggle never fail to wring a few crocodile tears from many

Jugoslav Counsel

Mr. Chumbley, a chubby-cheeked, neatly dressed man, effected several European trade agreements on the Continent during the Hoover administration and is at present Washington counsel for the Jugoslavian government.

He has been in all the States and many foreign countries and formerly was with the National Labor Relations board. When the textile board was set up after the general strike of September, he was transferred to the new body.

With a genuine zeal for his work, he was sent here from Washington when the seriousness of the crisis became obvious. He has arbitrated other strikes. They are not new to him—nor is human nature. He previously had operated chiefly in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania but was told to go to Southbridge "as fast as his car would take him" when the situation was seen to be critical.

Prefers Early Mediation

His philosophy in labor disputes might be paraphrased in six words, "a little give, a little take." He feels any strike can be settled amicably, although he believes 20 minutes with both parties involved in a controversy before a walk-out is worth 20 days after it has been called.

Mr. Chumbley does not set himself up as a miracle worker. A strike, he knows, is grim business but he has supreme confidence in the belief that what is right must rule. He has had many successes in difficult situations.

He talked with merchants Thursday afternoon and yesterday morning without letting them know his name or mission. He obtained their views. He has talked with union leaders, both local and national. He has talked with the plant management. He wants to talk with the mill's board of directors. He believes much can be accomplished by talk across the table among small groups, where the "give and take" has freer expression.

Groundwork Is Laid

Mr. Chumbley, who went to Providence, R. I., today, doesn't intend to rush the situation. He attended the public hearing yesterday merely as an observer. His efforts to settle the strike really have not begun, although the groundwork has been laid. He realizes feeling runs high after a hearing, that nerves here are taut because of the closing of the Hamilton mill.

He wants help from those who know the strike situation. He re-

quires the background, he said, to get at the bottom of the tangle. He will accept assistance, not merely listen while the offer is made.

He is to return to Southbridge soon to bring about a settlement, if it is in the realm of possibility.

State police, in the meantime, continue to remain in Southbridge although their number has been reduced to 20. They have been given no information concerning when they will be released from strike duty. They said they will continue to patrol local streets and to stand by in case of any emergency here or in Dudley or Webster.

Board Continues Efforts

The Board of Selectmen said today it plans no let-up in its efforts to reach an understanding between the strikers and the plant management so the mill will not close permanently.

By Massachusetts corporate law, the mill management and its directors may dispose of an inventory, which includes in the case of the Hamilton firm its raw wool, finished materials and goods in process, but a two-thirds vote of the stockholders is required to liquidate fixed assets, such as machinery and plant.

The company, which was formed in 1828 and incorporated in 1831, already is liquidating its inventory. At a meeting Tuesday, the directors will consider complete liquidation and dissolution of the company. Approval of the step would have to be given by the stockholders at their meeting in February or sooner at a special session.

Cotton Heads to Unite To Save N. E. Industry

Special Correspondence

BOSTON, Dec. 15—Aroused by the strike in Southbridge and the controversy between Gov. Joseph B. Ely and Robert J. Watt, secretary of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor, over the use of State police, members of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers today were urged in a statement from their organization to "join with other business men in supporting Gov. Ely in his attempt to save the textile industry in this part of the country."

"Industries and business should join to combat this menace, fostered by union leaders crazed with a desire for power and evidently committed to a permanent policy of ruthlessly closing those mills where manufacturers do not bow to them on bended knee," the statement said.

an eye. Exaggeration, warping of the facts, and wholesale fabrication are all in the bag of tricks, and the lifting smoke never reveals any injured leaders; the workers are always left holding the well-known bag.

Someone with a flair for explaining simple things to children should take our organized labor leaders in hand and point out to them that in Russia, THE workingman's country, those who seek to impede industry and deprive workmen of their jobs are given a fair trial in an open court, allowed to testify before the microphones of a large hookup, and if found guilty, turned over to a practiced firing squad. The parasite who can be a lamb or a lion upon occasion, and the leaders who won't play ball on the level with either side are not tolerated. This may be the reason for the fact that so many of our uninformed soap box pleaders and agitators talk of Russia but never go near the place. Our system of handling these and other undesirables is less harsh than the Russian, but when are we going to do something to help the workingmen who turn a deaf ear to their poison and try to carry on their work? They are certainly entitled to some consideration, and this is especially true in the Southbridge case where a minority has caused the trouble.

"Too Late," Hamilton Mill Head Says

Tells Southbridge Folk Big Mill Is Closed Indefinitely Due to Strike

Southbridge, Dec. 14 (A.P.)—Hope of settling the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co. mill here, seems lost as President Richard Lennihan declared at a public hearing in town hall after lengthy speeches by union officials and striking employees, "I'm sorry, but it is too late, the mills are closed indefinitely." He reviewed reports he has issued from time to time during the strike, which began on Nov. 14, but most of the spectators left the hall, feeling the hearing was at an end. With the meeting supposed to start at ten o'clock as early as 7:45 o'clock 175 persons were in the hall. The State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation, together with directors and officials of the Hamilton Woolen Co. and the selectmen went into conference in the selectmen's room.

TEXTILE COUNCIL CONVENES TODAY

Miss Jean Gauthier Will Represent Hamilton Union Members

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of Hamilton local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America, planned to attend the meeting of the Massachusetts Textile council in Sokol hall, East Douglas, this afternoon.

One hundred and fifty delegates representing 15,000 textile workers in central Massachusetts and other parts of the Commonwealth are expected to attend the monthly session.

Reports of conditions in Massachusetts textile mills, including grievances, will be acted upon by the council.

Joseph Sylvia of Pawtucket, R. I., New England U. T. W. A. organizer, who has figured prominently in the Southbridge strike, was to be one of the speakers at the meeting.

Locals from communities other than those in central Massachusetts to be represented are Taunton, Lowell, Lawrence, Holyoke, Fall River and New Bedford.

The last meeting of the council was held in Webster Saturday, Nov. 17.

Closing Hamilton Mills a Calamity Directors of Southbridge Com- pany to Meet Soon and Dispose of the Assets

Southbridge, Dec. 15 (A.P.)—The permanent closing of the mills of the Hamilton Woolen Company, 100 years old and with an annual payroll of over \$1,000,000, announced yesterday by Richard Lennihan, president of the company, at a public hearing called by the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, was termed a "calamity" today by Daniel P. Bernheim, president of the Southbridge Manufacturers' Association. Mr. Lennihan said that the third strike called by the United Textile Workers since Labor Day, contrary to an agreement with the union, and resulting disorders were threatening the lives of the workers and the safety of property and that he could not operate a closed shop with a minority of workers dictating selection and discipline of the employees.

A meeting of directors will be called shortly to act on disposal of the physical assets. The 650 workers who remained when 300 to 400 U. T. W. members walked out have formed a mutual benefit society here and discussed the possibility of securing financial backing and reopening the mill.

FIXING THE BLAME

Yesterday's open hearing on the Hamilton strike troubles—as absorbingly interesting a meeting as the Town hall has seen in a long time—brought out two main points. The first is that the three strikes were called wantonly and arbitrarily on the motion of outsiders, and the second is that strikers found their jobs very uncomfortable when they went back to work after the early difficulties.

Joseph Sylvia of Pawtucket, who has led the strikers and their local officers from the outset to their present situation, was rather careful yesterday to avoid any discussion of the reasons for calling the strikes and the manner of putting them into effect, and concentrated on the charges of discrimination.

It is now generally accepted that non-strikers had a better time of it than returning strikers. Resentments arising from the first difficulties caused each group to resent the presence of the other in the mills, and those who stayed on the job had the preference.

Perhaps this friction, on which Mr. Sylvia based his entire case, was inevitable. A good personnel manager might have been able to persuade the opposing camps to like each other and to work together amicably; who can say now?

What none of us should forget is the overwhelming issue of the cruelty and ruthlessness of the general strike, which embroiled the Hamilton workers when they had no part in desiring or calling it.

As a part of the tactics of the general strike, squadrons of outside invaders came into our quiet town and with gangster methods forced the closing of the Hamilton mill, where no one had thought of striking.

All of us have occasion to regret that our foresight is not as good as our ability to see things clearly in retrospect. It is of course illegal to picket or make threatening demonstrations around a mill where no strike is in effect, and the rough-house visitors could have been chased out of town had the police been able to command sufficient numbers for the purpose. Had that scavenging act been performed on Sept. 6, there would have been no strike at the Hamilton mill, and the workers would not now be jobless.

If any raiders invade our town again, we hope someone will think of the indicated treatment promptly.

THE NEWS is disposed to wonder what could have been the feelings of Richard Lennihan and his fellow executives of the Hamilton Woolen Co. when they were greeted with affectionate applause by their loyal workers on entering the hall for the hearing yesterday morning.

Here were people who had been turned out of their jobs because of the necessity of closing the mill, standing, cheering wildly, clapping their hands and waving their arms. It was a heart-felt, loving demonstration.

Pure loyalty like that, unquestioning and devoted, is one of the most precious things one may live to attain, and it is beyond our comprehension how any board of directors could wish its management to desert such a following, if any way remained open to carry on.

The resignation of Ira Mosher as a director in protest against the closing of the mill "without any regard for normal obligations to loyal employees" expresses the collective public opinion of Southbridge on this action.

THE NEWS regrets that John Chumbley, the textile labor board adjuster, didn't arrive 10 days earlier. He is the first sane adviser to whom the strikers would listen, and his method is so common-sense and practical, as well as so appealingly agreeable, that we believe he could have settled the strike in a day.

We still remain unconvinced of the necessity for closing the mill permanently, and we are inclined to hope that counsels of generosity may yet prevail.

PLENTY OF FIGHT LEFT IN US

It is time now to dismiss the gloomy atmosphere of the coroner's inquest over the death of the once proud Hamilton Woolen Co., and take a cheerful and courageous view of the future.

We in Southbridge have been so preoccupied during the past few days with the swift and dramatic accumulation of troubles in the path of Richard Lennihan that we may have temporarily forgotten a fact we ought now to restore to its proper perspective. It is this: while we seem to have lost one valued industrial leader we still have many good ones left—resourceful, durable, and thoroughly rooted in Southbridge.

It is natural in a time like this that everyone should be counting the cost to his personal fortunes. The merchant, the professional man, the real estate owner, the insurance broker—dozens of others—are ruefully computing possible shrinkage of income.

Suppose we declare a moratorium for a while on such desolating thoughts and turn our minds to the celebration of Christmas. If it is true that things never turn out quite as well as we hope, it is equally true that neither do they turn out as badly as we fear.

What counts most is courage, stamina, staying power, the ability to take it on the chin and to give blows in return. If one can be sure he has these qualities he may know he can endure a season of hardship, because he has something more valuable than dollars—possessions that cannot be taken from him.

There is plenty of this dauntless, unbeatable spirit in Southbridge and we are going to see it in action. Mark these words.

WE NEED HIM HERE Dec 17

Southbridge has seen real drama during the past week, involving a number of figures in a contest of interests and a clash of wills. Let us hope still for a last act with a happy ending.

That Mr. Lennihan has made a great contribution to the welfare of Southbridge everyone knows. The Hamilton Woolen Co. was on the point of liquidation in 1927 when he appeared in time to save it and give it new life, with the assistance of a group of able associates.

It was a job requiring organizing genius and unremitting hard work, and anyone who knows how difficult it has been to keep a business in sound condition during the past four years must realize the exacting nature of the task of maintaining in prosperity an enterprise rescued from death only a short while before the depression began. No one will wish to deny it was a brilliant feat in business engineering achieved in the face of great obstacles.

Mr. Lennihan has found time also to assist in local good works, including the Harrington Memorial hospital, the new water supply system for Sturbridge, and his connection with the Southbridge Savings bank.

His recent resignation of the presidency of the bank was a step he regretted very much. He was disposed to continue in this post as long as he could, but it was impressed upon him that to do so would be inconsistent with the course made necessary by the enforced closing of the mill.

No further review of the difficulties that have grown out of the series of strikes is needed to remind readers of the strain, constantly increasing in intensity, that has frayed his nerves and persuaded him of the difficulties of carrying on in the textile industry.

In conferences with the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration he has listened to an outside representative of his employees recite tales of unfair practices which, when proof was demanded, turned out to relate to some mill in Connecticut. When one conciliatory proposal after another was offered by a member of the board or by Mr. Lennihan, hopes of peace were dimmed by the stubborn declaration: "I won't stand for it!"

Mr. Lennihan has given his best, and he has been truly concerned over the welfare of his employees. He worked hard to keep the mill running until the strike organizers made effective operation impossible.

Mr. Lennihan is a man of great personal resource, of imagination and courage, of dash and enterprise. His technique in finance and selling has been highly successful.

We can ill afford to lose Mr. Lennihan, and we know how much he regrets the thought of giving up his home and his work here. We must still hope for some happier turn of events that will undo all the mischief that has been done and keep him at the head of his organization.

Entire Village Prays To Keep Woolen Mills

Special to the Herald Tribune

SOUTHBRIDGE, Mass., Dec. 16.—All human agencies having apparently failed to keep the Hamilton Woolen Mills from quitting the town because of labor trouble, Southbridge citizens today prayed for divine intervention. Strikers and non-strikers alike, Catholic and Protestant, prayed that the mill owners would reconsider their recent vote to close the mills forever.

At the same time a petition was being circulated by George Laplant, representing the Mill Workers' Protective Association, asking that the Hamilton Mills directors, who meet here on Tuesday, rescind their order. Closing of the mills would throw more than 1,000 operatives out of work. Citizens have asked the strikers to drop all demands for a closed shop and higher pay.

Try to Induce Directors To Reopen Plant

Group of Workers Gain 1,000 Signatures to Petitions By Residents Asking Hamilton Directors To Reconsider Their Decision to Cease Business

APPEAL TO WORKERS NOT TO JOIN UNION

Federal Textile Agent is in Boston to Interview Company Heads; Union Leaders Agree to Abide By His Terms; Prayers Offered in Churches

Sixteen of 18 trustees of the Southbridge Savings bank met today and voted to postpone consideration of Richard Lennihan's resignation as president until some later time.

Definite steps to induce the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. to reverse their decision to close the Globe Village mill were being taken today as union leaders announced their complete confidence in John Chumbley, representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, who was removed from Pennsylvania last Thursday and sent here under orders from Washington, D. C., to endeavor to reconcile differences between the plant management and the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America.

Petitions were being circulated among residents under the direction of George Laplante of 144 Fisk st., asking the directors to reconsider their action in closing the plant. More than 1,000 signatures have been affixed to the papers and as nearly as could be ascertained, only one Main st. merchant refused to sign.

Mr. Chumbley was in Boston today seeking to interview company directors relative to the strike.

Prayers were offered in Catholic and Protestant churches yesterday for the re-opening of the mill.

Msgr. M. A. Desrochers, pastor of Notre Dame church, preaching a half-hour sermon at all masses yesterday, asked that the past be forgiven and forgotten and that efforts be made for a reconciliation. He said he hoped the strike would be settled before Christmas. He cited the holiday period and the New Year as times when good wishes customarily are exchanged expressed the hope this year would not differ from the past in that respect.

Family Ranks Split

He said the labor dispute had created hardships not only among his parishioners but also in the town as a whole, dividing even the ranks of families.

Msgr. Desrochers pointed out that persons have a right to be on either side of the controversy but he deplored the violence which had accompanied the strike.

He pleaded for an end to hard feelings and asked for a restoration of old friendships.

School children at Brochu academy were praying today for a settlement of the strike and heads of St. Mary's parish said they would request pupils to pray for a happy termination of the dispute.

AS OTHERS SEE IT

MILL PICKS UP AND MOVES OUT

(Boston Traveler)

Of a cold winter morning 1,800 industrial workers, some on strike, converged upon the town hall at Southbridge where efforts were being made to dissuade mill owners from packing up and leaving town because of labor trouble.

But it was no use. Stunned to dejected silence were the 1,800 when the mill president announced that the decision to move was final and "it is too late now to do anything to keep the mill open."

Thus the town loses a \$1,000,000-a-year payroll. The tax rate, with the mill property non-productive, may leap from \$37.50 to \$45 or \$50. About 1,000 persons may be thrown on the welfare

board is scheduled to vote on complete liquidation of the firm's property and dissolution of the corporation. One petition was signed by merchants and business men and a second by property owners.

The third petition, also appealing for the continuance of operations by the mill in Southbridge, was signed by nearly 700 members of the Hamilton Protective association.

Bell Union Gives \$200

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, said today no action was taken Saturday at the meeting of the Textile Council in East Douglas concerning the local strike.

She said the local at the Bell Co., a Worcester textile plant, had voted to contribute another \$200 to aid needy Southbridge strikers. She said it was the second \$200 contribution made by the Worcester local and would be received this week.

Miss Gauthier said the plant would not be picketed while work was at a standstill. She plans to hold union meetings in Pilsudski hall once or twice each week to keep the organization banded together closely, she added.

Mrs. Anna Skowzon of 66 West st., arrested last Monday in the demonstration at the mill which preceded the march to Police headquarters to protest activities of State police, was fined \$5 in District court today for disturbance of the peace. She appealed and was released in \$25 for appearance in Superior court. An assault and battery count was filed by Judge Louis O. Rieutord.

Pushes Worker

State Trooper Stronick said the episode at the mill started when Mrs. Violet Lajeunesse of 28 Collier st. pushed Ethel Provost, a worker, as she left the mill.

Mrs. Lajeunesse testified the worker had walked along the picket line, elbowing strikers. The defendant said she became angry at such tactics and retaliated.

Trooper Stronick said Mrs. Skowzon and another woman, Mrs. Anna Ladyka of 50 School st., had attempted to free his prisoner, Mrs. Lajeunesse. Both denied the allegation. Charges of assault against Mrs. Ladyka and Mrs. Lajeunesse were filed but each was fined \$5 for disturbing the peace. They appealed and bail was fixed at \$25.

Nicholas Veshia of Foster st. was fined \$10 for refusing to move. State Trooper Walter McDonnell testified Veshia, during efforts to get the women in a car to be brought to headquarters, had shouted commands to overturn the machine. He also appealed and the same bond was set by the court.

Disturb the Peace

Pauline Roderique, 20, of 679 Main st., was fined \$10 for disturbing the peace during the same demonstration and appealed.

Joseph Paul of 91 Cross st., arrested by Trooper McDonnell and Sergt. Thomas McGuinness during the demonstration on Main st. the same day, also was fined \$10 on the same count and appealed.

Trooper McDonnell alleged Paul had shouted, "Let's go in and get them out." Paul denied the statement.

A charge of disturbing the peace pressed against Anna Slota, a picket, Dec. 3 during an early morning demonstration, was filed.

Charges of assault and disturbance of the peace made against Anthony Stypulkowski of 110 Sturbridge rd. by Special Officer Stanley Knowles were filed.

On behalf of the mill owners it can be said that they became fed up on strike violence.

But isn't there a larger question involved in this issue? Whether the owners or strikers are right, we do not know. How about the many workers who did not go on strike? How about the town itself? Does the industry owe no moral obligation to the town? Yes, there was violence, but the taxpayers furnished ample police protection.

In short, was there really no hope on the part of the owners that the violence would end?

Our concern is not whether the strikers or the owners were right. The point is whether a moral right was properly exercised in the closing of the mill.

Mrs. Jennie Labonte of 1000 Main st., a worker arrested last Tuesday for allegedly assaulting a picket, was granted a continuance to Friday, Dec. 28. She was arrested by Trooper McDonnell. She was admitted to Harrington Memorial hospital late Friday for medical treatment.

Revived at Headquarters

Arraignment of Albert Lavallee of Lovely st. for assault and battery on Lionel Dupre of 538 Main st. was continued to Friday. Mr. Dupre said he was attacked on Main st. near the home of Miss Gauthier and hit twice. He said he recalled nothing after the second blow until he was revived at Police headquarters. Mr. Dupre said he could not identify Lavallee although a companion, Treffe Davio, also of 538 Main, another plant worker, said he recognized the defendant. He also was identified by Miss Jeannette Daigle of 658 Main st. Lavallee denied he was in the scuffle, claiming he was on Union st. at the time.

A warrant was issued by the court for the arrest of Alfred Hevey, supposed to be a Main st. resident, who has not appeared since the fight which involved Mr. Davio and Mr. Dupre. Hevey is charged with assault on Mr. Davio.

Mr. Eler's plea to workers at the mill follows:

"We, the employees of the Hamilton Woolen Co., nearly 1,000 of us, are faced today with the dreary reality that we have lost our jobs two weeks before Christmas, and in the middle of a long, cold winter. We have fought and worked and were loyal to ourselves and our employers, but the thing that couldn't happen has happened. The Hamilton is closed.

Agita' Is Blamed

"Why are we out of work today? Not because of any fault of the management of this mill, nor because of a lack of orders, but because of the efforts of a few well-paid agitators whose sole aims in fostering discontent and strikes are their own financial gain and personal glory. Those are not the real purposes of organized labor. I am not against organization. But I am against the kind of leadership the union in Southbridge has had."

"An organization of employees who can co-operate with their employers can be of great benefit to both, but a union such as we have had to contend with a union entirely ruled by paid agitators and local officials drunk with imaginary power — could never succeed.

"It is entirely impossible to reason or bargain with such a group, as has been proven.

Continue Fight

"The purpose of this appeal is to prevent this group from gaining any further strength in Southbridge. There is very little chance of our working again for the Hamilton, but even that small chance is lost if the radical group gains any more strength. We have fought together so far and we must continue. We are the majority and we must stick together. It is the only possible chance we have.

"Everything possible is being done by the employees group and by various interests to attempt to have the mill re-open.

"Frankly, it seems hopeless but we will continue to fight for our jobs and rights. The Hamilton has run for more than a century without advice from Worcester, Rhode Island or any other place and if left alone will continue."

"Stick by your guns and do not allow this group which is responsible for our predicament to gain one member from our ranks. If you will do this we may have a chance to again be at work and contented."

Selectmen, Priests and M and M Association Ask Hamilton

When the board of directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. met at the Second National bank in Boston today they were greeted by numerous petitions and statements from individuals and groups in Southbridge who represent the entire Town in wanting the company to reopen.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

"The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Southbridge at its weekly meeting discussed the situation regarding the intention of your company to close your business interests in Southbridge.

"As a board, we regret very much this contemplated action and we are certain that we speak for the inhabitants of the Town when we say that the regret is universal.

"We realize that your departure from Town will not only cripple the business of many of our merchants and have its effects upon our banks, but also will deal a blow against the Town as a municipality from which it will take many years to recover.

"We hasten to assure you that everything possible was done to encourage your workers to return and to refrain from violence against those who were loyal to you to the end.

"It seems a pity that so many who are residents and citizens of our Town and who were entirely innocent in this matter should be made to suffer. Every taxpayer and every resident will feel the loss of this industry. As you know, it was one of the two mainstays of our industrial lives. As the governing board of the Town we feel at liberty to say to you that we believe that operations can be resumed without fear of further labor trouble. We are willing to call a mass meeting of the workers and citizens of the Town for the purpose of urging upon the former employees of your company to take into consideration the great loss to all our people in your decision to suspend your business definitely, and we are willing to take any other steps that you may suggest that will insure peace and tranquility in our Town and promote your business in the best possible means.

"The removal of your company and the consequent loss cannot be measured in mere dollars and cents. In many cases it will mean the breaking up of homes, family ties, and the removal from our community of many workers who were loyal to your concern.

"It will mean that they will be obliged, and without fault on their part, to secure work elsewhere, and generally speaking, there will be disappointment, suffering and poverty not only for those who foster the ideals which caused you to close your factories but also for those who were entirely innocent of anything that might be considered a violent act as far as your company is concerned.

"We would respectfully ask in the name of the Town that you reconsider your decision, and that you resume operations to the end that the Town of Southbridge and its inhabitants who have been loyal to you may not be deprived of a livelihood, and the strong ties that have bound them together in this community."

M. & M. ASSOCIATION

"The Southbridge Manufacturers and Merchants Association received with deepest regret the statement made by your company last Friday at the public hearing in this town, of its intention to close permanently your mill in Southbridge.

"The inevitable results of taking this action will be widespread distress in our community. Particularly will this distress be felt by the more than 600 of your employees who for many weeks have braved the taunts and jeers of the strikers and risked physical injury and damage to their homes in a practical demonstration of their loyalty to your company and its management.

"Directly or indirectly there is scarcely a citizen of our town who will not be in some way adversely affected. The loss of so substantial a payroll in a community of our size will seriously cripple commerce and trade at a most unfortunate time. The abrupt throwing out of work of so many of our people will bring actual physical hardship and mental suffering not only to them but to their dependents as well.

"The general public are definitely of one mind that the outside influences which have been at work in our community during this trouble have been harmful to your company and detrimental to the best interests of Southbridge.

"On behalf of Southbridge and its people we respectfully and sincerely urge you to reconsider this matter and to do all within your power to retain for Southbridge this century old institution."

MSGR. DESROCHERS

"We have only to think of the millions of unemployed and the vast number of empty factory buildings in this land to realize the pity of adding another thousand to the ranks of the idle and another mill to the list of those that are closed.

"My heart is with the people of my parish who have depended on the Hamilton Woolen Co. for employment, regardless of which side they may have taken, and with everyone in Southbridge who may suffer injury. It is my sincerest wish that the owners of the mill may yet conclude to resume operations and thus spare our people the miseries of unemployment.

"This is a season when all should strive for peace and good will, and I hope the prayers that have gone up in Southbridge for a restoration of the spirit of forgiveness and conciliation will not be unheard."

REV. MULLINS

"The closing of the mill of the Hamilton Woolen Co. has stricken our community with sorrow and foreboding. Unless the mill is opened there will be want in many homes, unrelieved by any prospects.

"Like the other ministers in Southbridge I have offered prayers for the relief of the people's anxiety, and in my church I have spoken for the gentler counsels that dispel anger and strife and restore harmony and peace.

"May the owners of the mill pause to think of those who are dependent upon them for the opportunity to earn their daily bread, and who, if deprived of their employment, will have to face poverty and sickness and pitifully small resources, or none at all."

Hapgood Does Not Appeal Disposition Of Driving Charge—And That's News

Dec 18 34

When a man bites a dog—that's news.

And when Powers Hapgood, labor organizer, is found guilty in court and does not appeal—that's news, too.

The Worcester Central Labor Union firebrand, who probably has seen the inside of more courtrooms in Worcester county than any other man, was arraigned in District court here today to answer a charge of speeding, preferred by State Trooper Walter McDonnell last Tuesday.

Officer McDonnell, whose repartee has embarrassed countless lawyers, took the stand first and stated his case. He said he estimated Hapgood's car was going between 55 and 60 miles an hour on the Southbridge-Sturbridge road and told the court a school bus was about to pull out into the highway when Hapgood's car "sped" by.

Arming himself with copious notes, Hapgood cross-examined Officer McDonnell, delving deep into legal terms. Then he asked Officer McDonnell if his (Hap-

good's) car could not have been going about 40 miles an hour. The officer replied that the speed was "nearer 60."

Asked whether he had recognized the defendant as one active in strike activities here, Officer McDonnell said the Hapgood car was going too fast to identify anyone in it.

Hapgood then placed his wife, Mrs. Mary Donovan Hapgood, a labor organizer also, on the stand but Mrs. Hapgood, after estimating the speed of the car at 35 or 40 miles an hour, was interrupted by Judge Louis O. Rientord, who asked Hapgood to read a section of the State motor laws which calls 30 miles an hour an "unreasonable" speed.

Hapgood said he had not been aware of this section and Judge Rientord, apparently fearing that the case would be argued far into the day, offered to place the case on file if Hapgood would agree. The latter, after a conference with his wife, agreed, and the local court had the distinction of hearing Hapgood accept a disposition without appealing.

POOR LEADERSHIP

That notable architect of our present misfortunes, Joseph Sylvia, had some pregnant words for a Boston Herald correspondent in Barrington, R. I., last night.

"He declined to discuss the Southbridge strike other than to admit that Francis J. Gorman, vice president of the U. T. W. A., will confer with him in Providence tonight and will issue a statement 'which will be a revelation to Massachusetts people'."

If Mr. Gorman should wish to make a "revelation" that would truly please the people of Massachusetts, he would say in loud, clear tones that Mr. Sylvia, in response to popular request, would hereafter stay quietly in Pawtucket and would not cross the State line into Massachusetts again.

THE NEWS has it on excellent authority that a growing number of members of the local textile union are so unappreciative of what Mr. Sylvia has done for them in closing the Hamilton mill that they hope never to see him in Southbridge again.

THE NEWS learns further that several highly placed men—not mill operators—are quietly arranging other pastures into which Mr. Sylvia may presently be turned to graze.

We do not go so far as to doubt Mr. Sylvia's good faith or the sincerity of his devotion to the cause he serves. Nor do we deny the right of wage-earners to maintain organizations, with intelligent leaders.

What we do think about Mr. Sylvia is that he is inept. His bull-headed leadership of the Hamilton strike brought misfortune upon his followers, when greater intelligence would have shown the way to honorable peace.

Directors to Reconsider

church; Rev. Dennis Mullins, pastor of St. Mary's church; Rev. Martin Hanyz, pastor of St. Hedwig's church, and Rev. Victor Epinard, pastor of Sacred Heart church. The appeals, as sent to the Hamilton directors, are printed in full below:

REV. HANYZ

"Everybody in Southbridge deplores the situation caused by the shutdown of the Hamilton Woolen Co. The fact is the more tragic for its coming in the winter.

"The shutdown affects the Town generally, that's true—but it strikes a telling blow at the employees of the closed factory. The mill should be opened—with justice to all and evil to none. After all are we not the children of one common Father who is in Heaven? We all say: 'Our Father who art in Heaven, give us this day our daily bread.' Advent is almost gone and Christmas is nigh; surely humane justice, patience and love of neighbor, mutually, would be especially appropriate at this juncture, because of the approach of Christmas.

"May these principles of the Incarnate Prince of Peace, of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, come to us from the humble stable of Bethlehem—come to us and abide with the rich and the poor, with the employer and the employee.

"Let the mill be opened for the sake of Christ's poor—so that the employer may do good unto even the least of the brothers and sisters of the Christ of the manger of Bethlehem. Peace to men of good will on earth."

REV. EPINARD

"Forgetting that the great majority of our people of Southbridge are good God-fearing citizens, imbued with the spirit of the Workman of Nazareth, always happy to earn their daily bread at the sweat of their brows, you have, nevertheless, closed the doors of the mill, because some of them, a small fraction, misguided and influenced by outsiders and socialistic and communistic doctrines, have caused trouble in our ever-peaceful and quiet town.

"I know my parishioners, their needs and their dispositions—all cry for work, they are sorry for what has happened. How gloomy would be this town, in this glorious time of Christmas, if the working people had not the assurance that they could again find a job in Southbridge.

"Therefore, I humbly ask, in their name, and in the name of this Town, the stockholders and directors to reopen the gates of their plant even at the cost of some self-sacrifice. We love ourselves most when we forget ourselves most. Our highest personal interests are those of our country. Let us all deserve this blessing from the Prince of Peace: 'Peace on earth to men of good will.'"

UNION STILL BALKS EFFORT FOR PEACE

Strike Must End Before New Moves are Made, Fisher States

Today found the faint path of possible settlement of the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co. still blocked by the failure of officials of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America to order a vote of abandoning the walkout in accordance with a telegraphic request made by the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration last Thursday.

Edward Fisher, chairman of the board, said today the hands of himself and his fellow mediators were tied unless the strike were called off to enable the board to renew its negotiations with the management and directors of the woolen company.

Acquainted with Mr. Fisher's statement he could do nothing until action were taken by the Hamilton local, Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the union, said she had no comment to make.

Mr. Fisher said at his Boston office today that unless the strike were cancelled the board only could complete and publish its report fixing blame for the walkout and its continuance. The report will be based on the public hearing held here Friday, Dec. 14, and on information acquired by the board while it was striving to mediate the walkout, which occurred Nov. 14.

Mill Directors Adjourn To Tomorrow Without Deciding Hamilton Fate

Brief Statement Follows Secret Session Held At Boston Bank

CONCERN MAY MOVE Additional Pleas to Reopen Plant Sent Company Leaders at Hub

Directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co., meeting in utmost privacy in a directors' room of the Second National bank building, Boston, to consider what action they would take on the proposed liquidation of the local firm and dissolution of the corporation, announced in a terse statement issued at 12:15 p. m. today they had adjourned until tomorrow morning, thus quelling any hope Southbridge might have had they would vote to reopen the plant.

The brief 15-word statement was given to newspapermen who had waited in the bank lobby since 10 a. m. by Thomas P. Beal, chairman of the board.

It read:

Identities Concealed

"After long and serious consideration of the problem, the directors have adjourned to tomorrow morning."

The secrecy which was to shroud the meeting was evidenced when the directors were ushered into the meeting room by methods unknown to newspapermen, thus effectively concealing the identities of those who attended the session and their number.

The meeting began at 10 a. m. and was concluded two and a quarter hours later with no announced decision. The directors departed by the same secret means they used to enter.

No inkling could be gained as to the tenor of the discussions which took place in the directors' room. Richard Lennihan, president of the concern, was seen hurrying away from the building but could not be questioned.

Chumbley Sees Young

Whether John Chumbley, representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, assigned to handle the Hamilton strike last Thursday, attended the meeting, could not be established.

It was known definitely, however, that he talked yesterday while in Boston with B. Loring Young, counsel for the corporation and a director. What influence he had in bringing about a shift in the firm's decision to close permanently was not ascertained immediately.

A gradual swing to the belief that the firm was finished definitely in Southbridge if it did not dissolve and liquidate was noticeable here today.

Plant May Move

The belief was strengthened further by reports from Gilbertville, a community of 2,700 near Ware, that negotiations have been under way during the past few days among officials of the Hamilton concern and the owners of the Gilbert Co. plant in Gilbertville relative to moving the machinery of the local mill to the smaller town.

It could not be established, however, how far negotiations have gone for a removal of the company, efforts to reach Mr. Lennihan having been unsuccessful. Belief was prevalent in Gilbertville that Mr. Lennihan had been to the community to examine the mills.

Nearly all the homes in Gilbertville are owned by the Gilbert Co.

Decision Expected

Opinion prevailed in Gilbertville today, according to reports, a decision to move from Southbridge would be made by the Hamilton directors soon if they intended to take advantage of the offer.

The directors, in addition to the petitions from Southbridge merchants and business men, taxpayers and citizens, and members of the Hamilton Protective association, also had before them appeals for the reopening of the plant from the Board of Selectmen, the Manufacturers and Merchants association, Msgr. M. A. Desrochers, pastor of Notre Dame church; Rev. Dennis Mullins, pastor of St. Mary's church; Rev. Martin Hanyz, pastor of St. Hedwig's church, and Rev. Victor Epinard, pastor of Sacred Heart church.

May Call Meeting

The Selectmen, in their statement, said they felt operations could be resumed at the mill without fear of further labor trouble. They offered to call a mass meeting of workers and citizens and promised to take any other steps the directors might suggest which would "insure peace and tranquility in our Town and promote your business in the best possible means."

In its letter to the directors, the M. & M. said the inevitable result of the shutdown would be widespread suffering in the community, particularly for the more than 600 persons who were on the payroll when the plant closed last Tuesday.

The association pointed out that "directly or indirectly, there is scarcely a citizen of our Town who will not be in some way adversely affected" and that the public was "definitely of one mind" that "outside influences have been 'harmful to your company and detrimental to the best interests of Southbridge.'"

Urged to Reconsider

Members of the company board were urged to reconsider their action and to do all in their power to retain the mill for Southbridge.

Msgr. Desrochers in his appeal said, "We have only to think of the millions of unemployed and the vast number of empty factory buildings in this land to realize the pity of adding another thousand to the ranks of the idle and another mill to the list of those closed."

"It is my sincerest wish that the owners of the mill may yet conclude to resume operations and thus spare our people the miseries of unemployment," he continued.

Rev. Mullins asked the owners of the plant to "pause to think of those who are dependent upon them for their opportunity to earn their daily bread, and who, if deprived of their employment, will have to face poverty and sickness with pitifully small resources, or none at all."

Asks Justice for All

He asked for the "gentler counsels that dispel anger and strife and restore harmony and peace."

The pastor of St. Hedwig's church, Rev. Hanyz, also pleaded that the plant be reopened, "with justice to all and evil to none."

Rev. Epinard, in the name of the Town, asked the directors to reopen the plant, even at some self-sacrifice, indicating their highest personal interests should be those of the nation.

People Want Work

He said his parishioners cry for work and are contrite concerning what has happened. The pastor attributed the trouble to outsiders and "socialistic and communistic doctrines."

No disturbance of any kind was reported to police during the night or today.

Intense interest was focused on the directors' meeting, which held the fate of the mill in its lap.

The meeting was on the tongue of every resident who had the welfare of the community at heart. Conjecture was rife as to what action the board might take and what results the deluge of appeals for a reconsideration of the decision to close might have.

Directors May Reach Decision This Afternoon

Hamilton Woolen Co.'s Board Chairman Says Final Word May Follow Meeting of Directors; Morning Session Adjourns After Hour and 15 Minutes

FOUR DIRECTORS MEET IN BEAL'S OFFICE

Lennihan Does Not Attend Special Meeting With Chairman, Walker and Two Other Officials; May Decide on Liquidation and Dissolution of Firm

Directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. went into session again at 3 p. m. today in a directors' room at the Second National bank building, Boston, in an attempt to reach some final decision on liquidation of the local concern and dissolution of the corporation.

The directors met this morning, the discussion lasting one hour and 15 minutes.

They then adjourned as a body to 3 p. m.

Following adjournment of the morning session, Thomas P. Beal, chairman of the board; Ross G. Walker, treasurer of the company, and two other directors held a conference in the private office of Mr. Beal. Mr. Beal is president of the Second National Bank of Boston.

The conference lasted from 11:15 a. m. to 1:45 p. m. Mr. Walker's face was described as "very grave" as he left Mr. Beal's office following the conference.

Questioned whether the directors expected to take action on liquidation and dissolution this afternoon, Mr. Beal said:

"We are going to try to reach some final decision this afternoon but we can't tell now whether we shall succeed."

He said following adjournment of the morning session of the directors he had no statement for the press "at present."

Richard Lennihan, president of the company, did not attend the meeting in Mr. Beal's office, leaving the building after the first session of the board. He had nothing to say.

Customers Plead For Reopening of Plant

Special Correspondence

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 — The White House and the Textile Labor Board have been besieged with requests from customers of the Hamilton Woolen Co. in Southbridge, Mass., that every possible effort be made to persuade the owners of the mill to resume operations.

Requests for mediation began coming in after the mill was closed, and John Chumbley, a field man, was hurried to Southbridge to confer with the management and the strikers.

The pressure on Washington has continued, and word has been sent to Mr. Chumbley to do all he can to harmonize the differences.

It has been learned that after the early troubles were settled, Pres. Richard Lennihan made effective efforts to secure a large volume of orders regardless of profit, in order to keep faith with the workers and provide enough employment for all to last several months.

He was still struggling to fill these orders when the mill was forced to close Dec. 11. Large tailoring establishments in New York had taken orders for garments based on the low prices made them, and they now are bringing their predicament to Washington. One firm has represented to the administration its fear it may have to lay off part of its force of 1,700 workers if the Hamilton mill is unable to make deliveries. ***

After the plant was closed a number of customers wired President Roosevelt, asking his aid in straightening out what to them was an unprecedented situation. The telegram, sent on December 12, was turned over to the Textile Labor Relations Board. Walter C. Taylor, technical adviser of the board, wired the Hamilton offices here that one of the board's staff had been sent to investigate conditions in Southbridge.

Mr. Lennihan, his associates here say, is an ideal employer and has contributed materially to the civic betterment of Southbridge. He was chiefly responsible, they say, for the construction of the Harrington Memorial Hospital there, one of the finest in New England.

For some months, after the first of the series of strikes, the Hamilton Company kept its mill open under police protection. Loyal employees were subjected to violence and intimidation, company officials say, and another 200 who wanted to work were afraid to appear at the plant. The State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation attempted to settle the last of the strikes but at a meeting in the Southbridge

Red Agitators Force Factory In Massachusetts to Close

Woolen Plant Prefers to Shut Down Rather Than Combat Disorders Which Make Profitable Trade Impossible.

Seven melancholy employees, all that remain of an office staff of thirty, sat gloomily in the Empire State Building today waiting for final word from Boston regarding the liquidation of the Hamilton Woolen Company, which on December 11 closed its plant at Southbridge, Mass., normally employing 1,100 weavers and spinners, and announced that because of intimidation and violence on the part of the communist racketeers it would not be reopened.

Harassed by three strikes since Labor Day and unwilling to subject 650 loyal employees to further rough treatment directors of the Hamilton Company on December 11 took what they regarded as the only course open to them. They shut the plant, paid off most of the office force and announced plans for liquidating the hitherto prosperous concern.

The case of the Hamilton Company should be Exhibit A in the Museum of Ruined Business. The decision to shut down rather than continue to be the target of trouble-making elements was not idle bluff. It established a precedent in American enterprise when a going concern, which in 1933 paid a \$9 dividend, ceased to function under the handicap of intimidation.

After the decision was made Richard Lennihan, president of the firm, sent the following wire to over 300 customers:

"As you may know, the Hamilton Woolen Company has been subjected to its third strike since Labor Day. For the past several weeks we have continued operations to the best of our ability in the face of violence and other most difficult conditions. Yesterday there was further serious violence to employees. Therefore we are regretfully obliged to close down our mill."

Deliveries Are Impossible.

Mr. Lennihan informed his firm's customers that deliveries as specified in their orders had been made impossible by the strikes and asked them to either cancel the orders or agree to have the cloth manufactured elsewhere.

The response from customers, an official of the firm informed The Sun today, almost unanimously backed the Hamilton Company's action in closing its mill. One customer, whose letter was called representative of many, said:

"We are with you in spirit and hope that you will shortly have a settlement of your difficulties satisfactory to your interests. It is quite necessary in these days to take a firm stand with labor, who have become unruly due to the

wide scope of power that the Government seems to have placed in their lap, and the sooner we Americans stand up for our constitutional rights and let this class of people know that we will either run our own business or quit the better it will be for this country."

Directors of the Hamilton company met in Boston today to consider efforts that have been made by government agencies to have the plant reopened. Company officials here declined to comment on the possibilities. They pointed out that the company had already taken a heavy loss through restricted operations over the last three months due to strikes, and were firm in their assertion that the decision to liquidate was not bluff but taken only after consideration of all the factors involved.

The employees discharged here last week were paid up to March 1, it was said, and advised to seek work elsewhere. In Southbridge the closing of the plant has affected, or will shortly affect, every business in the town from corner grocery to savings bank. There has been nothing like it in the 115 years that the Hamilton Company's plant has been in operation. There have been strikes, but the plant has always reopened. In 1927 the directors planned to liquidate the business.

It was then that Mr. Lennihan stepped in and took control. Losses were converted into profits and the company's prosperity was reflected in the prosperity of Southbridge. There is only one other plant, the American Optical Company's factory, employing about 3,000, so the Hamilton Company's \$1,000,000 a year pay roll—now completely wiped out—is a big factor in a town of 14,000 people.

Psychologically, it is asserted, the shutting down of the plant has affected former employees more deeply than it has affected their pocketbooks. One weaver, who stuck to his loom despite threats of communist agitators until the day the plant was closed, committed suicide, company officials said. His job was gone. He saw no hope of getting it back. And Christmas was coming.

"On September 27 a strike was called, accompanied by violence. The mill agreed to take every one back that could be put to work, but there was a dispute and another strike was called on November 14. It was then that the company decided that under the conditions further successful operation of the mill was impossible, either from the point of view of the employee who did not wish to join the union or of the owners. The mill was closed for good.

"Where people who wish to work cannot do so safely without danger to themselves, to say nothing of their property, the management cannot take the responsibility. When the management of a company is no longer in the hands of those that are responsible for its success, it is impossible to continue operating."

Town Hall on December 14 Mr. Lennihan said the meeting had been called "too late."

Was Forced to Close.

"The Hamilton Woolen Company has closed its mill," he announced, "much against its will, because it was forced to do so."

Mr. Lennihan reviewed the progress of the company from the period in 1927 when it was losing money through the depression years. "Employment," he said, "has been steady compared to that in most similar enterprises and our financial condition, which was at first shaky, has become stable. These conditions continued until September 6, two days after the general strike started elsewhere.

"On the evening of September 6, so-called flying squads came into town. Violence started. Employees were intimidated and the mill closed to prevent injury to persons and property. From that time on there has been much unrest. The mill was reopened in response to the request of the President of the United States and every one taken back as fast as production made this possible.

Francis Gorman Slated To Give Talk in Webster

Special Correspondence
WEBSTER, Dec. 19—Francis J. Gorman, vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America, will make a public address in the Municipal auditorium here next Sunday at 2 p. m.

Bernard Christopher, general leader of the union forces in Webster, said members of the Webster, Dudley and Quinebaug, Conn., locals of the U. T. W. A. would meet at 1 p. m. Sunday in P. N. A. hall to prepare for a parade through the Main st. business section to the auditorium.

Boston Transcript Southbridge Dec 20

Because the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc., recommend the liquidation of the company and arrange to call a meeting of the stockholders to act upon the recommendation, it does not follow that the mill at Southbridge is to remain closed. The statement explaining the action of the directors makes it apparent that they would prefer to have their company continue in business. This is probably the dominant sentiment among the stockholders. Liquidation is proposed because, in the present posture of affairs, the company faces the prospect of a continuance of labor troubles with consequent losses. It cannot be expected to accept ruin in order to make a strikers' holiday.

The account of the labor troubles of the past months as given by the directors shows the company to have followed a course which met with the approval of the Government agencies that considered the case. The company settled a strike which was called soon after the end of the general textile strike last September. In doing this, it agreed, among other things, that any future disputes should be referred to the State Board of Conciliation for arbitration. This agreement being entered into with the leaders of the strikers was obviously an agreement to be regarded as binding upon the employees as well as upon the company. It takes two to make a bargain. But a third strike was called on Nov. 14. It was conducted with increasing violence. It brought about the closing of the mill. It may result in winding up the affairs of the company.

To save the situation there must be assurance that a resumption of the old-time pleasant relations of the company with its employees will be re-established. It must be relieved of the troubles that have beset it since labor leaders from away invaded Southbridge and caused idleness and strife in place of work and peace. The directors say: "Until outside interference and violence destroyed beyond hope of restoration friendly co-operative relations which formerly existed between the company and its employees, the board of directors believed as strongly as anyone in Southbridge that it was to the interest of the management of the company, its shareholders and employees to continue operations."

Reading between the lines of the statement it would seem that the directors have not finally closed the door against continued operation of the mill. They have apparently given the town of Southbridge and the wage earners who want work instead of bickering and violence an opportunity to bring about a change in conditions and the resumption of operations. Given assurance that industrial warfare is at an end, the company may resume its former attitude. But if it becomes a lost opportunity, it may prove to have been the last chance of saving an industry which has been a chief resource of its community for more than a century.

Mill Shut Down By Strikes in Its 115th Year

Massachusetts Woolen Plant Will Be Liquidated if Stockholders Approve

1,100 Are to Lose Jobs

Agitators Are Blamed by Officials Announcing Plan

John C. Donaldson, New York manager of the Hamilton Woolen Company, with offices in the Empire State Building, declared yesterday that the company's decision to close down its plant in Southbridge, Mass., and to liquidate the company if stockholders' consent could be obtained was brought about by the activities of outside agitators who intimidated employees by threats of violence and forced them to strike, although they had no grievances.

On December 11 the Hamilton firm, in the throes of the third strike since September, decided to close its plant, although 650 of the 1,100 workers were still carrying on, and Richard Lennihan, president of the company, sent the following telegram to more than 300 customers of the firm:

"As you may know, the Hamilton Woolen Company has been subjected to its third strike since Labor Day. For the last several weeks we have continued operations to the best of our ability in the face of violence and other most difficult conditions. Yesterday there was further serious violence to employees. Therefore we are regretfully obliged to close down our mill."

He said that since delivery of orders by the company was manifestly impossible under the circumstances, he would like them either to cancel the orders or agree to have them filled by other mills.

Closed Shop Demanded

The decision was forced, Mr. Donaldson said, by the activities of union organizers who demanded a closed shop in the Hamilton mills. "I have worked for a lot of employers, and I've never seen as good a one," Mr. Donaldson remarked, and a fellow employee sitting in his office, one of seven workers left here out of an office force of thirty, nodded his agreement.

Asked how the union had persuaded the employees to strike if they had no grievances, Mr. Donaldson said: "They intimidated them with their 'flying squadron,'—300 men." He said that the 650 who remained at work had been in constant danger of violence, that the "further serious violence" mentioned in Mr. Lennihan's telegram had been the beating of two workers by the flying squadron, and that the plant had been protected by Massachusetts State Police ever since the beginning of the second strike. The first of the three strikes was not confined to the Hamilton plant, being part of last fall's general textile strike, and the Hamilton employees had no complaints to offer at that time, he added.

Though they took back all those who had been on strike, including the president of the union, Mr. Donaldson said, the company refused to establish a closed shop and on September 27 another strike was called, followed, after a temporary truce, by a third on November 14. When further violence was attempted, the company decided to shut down and attempt to liquidate its affairs, although the concern had been in operation for 115 years and paid dividend of 9 per cent last year.

Affects Employees Here

Twenty-three employees of the New York offices of the company, discharged last week, were given their pay until March 1 and told that the company would not resume operations, Mr. Donaldson said.

A meeting was called by the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation at the Southbridge Town Hall on December 14 in an attempt to settle the last of the strikes, but Mr. Lennihan told them it was too late for arbitration, that the company had decided definitely to liquidate if the consent of the stockholders and the directors could be obtained.

The whole town of Stockbridge will be hurt by the shutdown of the plant, officials of the company say. In the town of 14,000 the only other factory is the American Optical Company, which employs about three thousand persons. The Hamilton firm employed 1,100. Their last pay day comes today, when they will receive one week's extra pay.

A group of the company's customers wired President Roosevelt when the decision to cease operations was announced, and he turned the telegram over to the Textile Labor Relations Board, which informed the Hamilton company, through Walter C. Taylor, technical adviser of the board, that the situation in Stockbridge was being investigated. But the company officials say with Mr. Lennihan that it is "too late for arbitration."

THE NEW YORK SUN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1934.

END NEAR FOR HAMILTON CO.

Stockholders Now Expected to Vote Liquidation.

REDS PREVENT OPERATION

Bay State Town Fears Big Relief Burden With 1100 Idle.

Liquidation of the Hamilton Woolen Company, which recently closed its mill at Southbridge, Mass., rather than subject 650 loyal employees to violence and intimidation on the part of communist racketeers, appeared certain today after a meeting at which the board of directors recommended that the business be wound up.

Richard Lennihan, president of the company, told The Sun today that he saw little hope of the mill, which normally employs 1,100 weavers and spinners, being reopened. Under the Massachusetts law, Mr. Lennihan said, a two-thirds vote of the stockholders is necessary before a company can liquidate. Notices are being sent out, Mr. Lennihan said, for a stockholders' meeting, at which he expects the recommendation of the directors to be approved.

"I am in perfect agreement with the action of the board," Mr. Lennihan said over the telephone from Southbridge. "It may take some time to have the recommendation ratified, but I see no chance of the business being continued."

After an all-day meeting in Boston the directors last night issued a statement which confirmed Mr. Lennihan's stand when the mill was shut down permanently on December 14.

'Future Operation Impossible.'

"The directors came to the conclusion that successful operation of the mill in the future would be impossible, and to continue to accede to the demands under the conditions which now exist in Southbridge would result in the rapid dissipation of the assets of the company," the statement said.

"The directors deplore this," the statement continued, "but believe that nothing is to be gained by refusing to face the facts."

"Until outside interference and violence destroyed, beyond hope of restoration, the friendly, cooperative relations which formerly existed between the company and its employees, the board of directors believed as strongly as any one in Stockbridge that it was to the interest of the management of the company, its shareholders and the employees to continue operation."

Hamilton Woolen has been a profitable company since Mr. Lennihan took charge in 1927 and last year paid a \$9 dividend.

The skeleton office staff left in the Empire State Building today took the action of the board as dooming their jobs and saw small hope of a vote by the stockholders that would restore work for themselves and for one-fifth of the working population of Southbridge. The Hamilton company formerly had a pay roll of \$1,000,000 a year, all of which is regarded as lost to the town.

Town Fears Relief Burden.

An extra week's pay, the gift of the Hamilton company to its loyal workers, helped to soften the blow, but all took it as perhaps the final pay they will get from the mill.

Officials of Southbridge, recognizing the unfortunate effect of 1,100 people being permanently unemployed, strove to have the mill reopened.

J. Edouard Demers, chairman of the Southbridge Selectmen, said that the town authorities would not give up hope until final action was taken. He said the town was in excellent financial condition and that there were enough excess funds to care for any reasonable welfare draft this year.

Indications of what the burden may be if the Hamilton mill fails to reopen were seen in the increased applications for relief work

during the last week, largely from those affected by the closing of the mill.

Looking at the situation over the long term, the Board of Selectmen of Southbridge announced that an increase in the tax rate of from \$15 to \$20 per \$1,000 might be necessary to meet the expected burden.

Some Hope Still Held.

Mr. Lennihan said today that he had not seen a petition bearing signatures of 2,500 workers and business men of Southbridge and surrounding communities requesting that the mill be kept open.

Despite Mr. Lennihan's pessimism, hope prevailed that something might be done. The Hamilton company has been unusually successful even during the depression and for that reason it was felt that opposition to liquidation might develop among the stockholders.

Last Sunday Protestant and Catholic congregations united in prayers for an amicable settlement of the dispute, which revolves largely upon the question of alleged discrimination against members of the United Textile Workers of America.

Liquidation of the Hamilton company would have a widespread effect, it was pointed out today. Providence coal dealers, as an example, supply \$100,000 worth of bituminous coal annually under contract to the Hamilton mill. Carl R. Mabley Jr., president of the Rhode Island Coal Exchange, said that closing of the mill would mean a direct pay roll loss of \$5,000 a year in Providence.

A CASE OF NERVES

(N. Y. Times)

The directors of the United States Chamber of Commerce and the officials of the American Federation of Labor seem to be suffering from a case of nerves over Communist activities. William Green, testifying before a Congressional committee, contends that these will soon develop to a dangerous point unless they are checked. He and other witnesses have urged in evidence alleged forced payments exacted from workers and employers by a supposedly Communist union. A week ago the directors of the United States Chamber of Commerce, going much further than Mr. Green, submitted to their membership a series of proposals recommending the enactment of sedition laws to prohibit, among other things, the advocacy of violent overthrow of the Federal government, and to deny the use of the mails to matter which advocates, or is published by an organization which advocates, "subversive doctrines."

The right of the government to protect itself against any group that seriously threatens or actually attempts its violent overthrow cannot be questioned. Experience has shown, however, that this right must be exercised charily. A government that begins by suppressing "subversive doctrines" tends constantly to extend the meaning of the phrase until it includes all inconvenient criticism. We are daily getting fresh evidence of this from Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, and every other country that has succumbed to dictatorship. The established democratic-liberal policy is for the government to take the minimum measures of this sort clearly necessary to insure its safety, and otherwise to permit the freest possible criticism. As a mere matter of practical wisdom, it is obvious that an attempt at present at any repressive policy of the type suggested by the Chamber of Commerce would only increase Communist sympathizers here from a negligible number to a number that might not be negligible. We already have ample laws and precedents to meet any real emergency if one should ever arise. Meanwhile, if there is racketeering in the needle trades on the part of Communist organizations, it should be proceeded against as racketeering and not as communism.

AS OTHERS SEE IT

DISAPPOINTING

(Boston Post)

The decision of the directors of the Hamilton mills at Southbridge to liquidate the company is disappointing and regrettable.

For the past six years this mill has operated successfully during a period very disastrous to the woolen industry generally. It is a record of which the management may well be proud. There is no reason to believe that operations in the future could not be conducted with the same degree of success.

Admitting the company was greatly harassed by strikes it declares unauthorized the fact remains that the vast majority of employees according to the company's statement were ready and willing to remain at work. Disorder and threats of violence led the company to close the mill.

But accepting in full the arguments of the company, and some are disputed by the strikers, the fact remains that the company does not choose to explore the field of conciliation further. Many industrial companies have been involved in disputes. Strikes are common. But in many cases a common ground of settlement is found. This is a time for conciliation. If the company's case is as sound as claimed then surely no impartial body could fail to give it due consideration.

As the matter stands the loyal employees of a successful enterprise are denied the chance of making a living because a few (if the company's statement is correct), forced an unauthorized strike.

These loyal employees will suffer severely. So will the town of Southbridge.

It does seem as though this problem does not call for hasty action but one which takes into consideration the strong claims of loyal employees and the town.

Massachusetts cannot afford to lose a prosperous industry like the Hamilton Woolen Co.

Try to Remove Causes Of Irritation, Create A Helpful Atmosphere

State and Local Officials Not Ready to Abandon Moves for Peace

CHUMBLEY HAS PLAN

Reconciliation Hoped For Despite Finality Of Board's Statement

Although the statement of the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. announcing their intention to advise the stockholders to authorize liquidation has every evidence of finality, quiet but concerted efforts are being made by friendly persons to remove the causes of irritation and create an atmosphere that would tend to encourage a more hopeful turn of events.

Hope of a solution is by no means dead, even though the mill owners say they have none. Public officials, State and local, are busy with plans they think may clear the outlook for the mill and make possible a labor situation entirely free from prospects of further trouble.

Will Give Meeting Date

The date for a special meeting of the stockholders of the company to act upon the directors' recommendation will be announced tomorrow afternoon, Pres. Richard Lennihan said today. He had no further statement to make.

John Chumbley, representative of the Textile Labor Relations Board, left Southbridge today after trying vainly to bring peace. He hopes to spend Christmas at his home in Tennessee, and probably will not return unless the situation changes materially.

Mr. Chumbley said today before leaving that he would recommend the following terms of settlement, in case there is a chance for an agreement:

1. All employees of the mill before Labor Day to be given employment, except those convicted of violence.
2. All persons employed since the strike to be taken in next.

Fair Consideration

Mr. Chumbley estimated that workers in the latter group would about offset in numbers those who may be convicted on charges of violence.

He does not suggest taking all the strikers back in a body, and he proposes fair consideration of individual cases in deciding which workers shall be restored to their old positions and which shall not.

The local union is agreeable to this plan, but the mill management holds it has no other course at present than one of silence, in view of yesterday's action of the board.

Selectmen Approve

Mr. Chumbley submitted his peace plan to the Selectmen, who said they regarded it as a good one. They have expressed the view that Mr. Chumbley can render material service if events permit him to try further.

Three closely guarded meetings of the Hamilton board were held, one on Tuesday morning, and two yesterday. The first meeting was devoted to a close study of the Southbridge situation, and it was at this session that petitions from business men, workers, clergymen, and Selectmen were received.

At yesterday morning's meeting the decision was reached to make a statement reciting the history of the trouble and announcing the decision to call a stockholders' meeting. From 12:15 until 1:45, Chairman Beal and Treasurer Walker were closeted with two other representatives of the board, drafting the statement. They were not ready when the board re-assembled at 3, but half an hour later they went into the meeting, where the draft was discussed and revised until 5 o'clock.

Depart in Rain

Then as the directors departed from the Second National bank in a driving rain storm, Chairman Beal told the waiting newspaper men that the statement would be ready for them at the office of Doremus & Co., financial advertising agents, at 7 p. m.

The directors voted at one of their sessions to notify Ira Mosher that his resignation from the board had been "unanimously accepted." Mr. Mosher received news of this action by mail this morning.

Members of the board include Thomas P. Beal, chairman, Richard Lennihan, president, Ross G. Walker, treasurer, Charles S. Pierce, C. P. Biddle, John E. Thayer, John C. F. Wheelock, B. Loring Young, and C. E. Cutting.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America, said today she regretted the action of the directors in recommending liquidation.

Regrets Closing

Her statement follows: "I regret exceedingly the action taken by the directors in calling for the permanent closing of the Hamilton Woolen Co.

"I have been an employee for 11 years. I have tried to be faithful and attended to my work during my entire employment.

"We ask for equal distribution of work with other employees and that no discrimination be made against the members of our union because of their union affiliations. "We members of the union are naturally more directly interested in having the mill continue operations than anyone as we have no other means of making our living here except our work in the mill."

Miss Gauthier said she was going today to Pawtucket, R. I., and expected to talk with Joseph Sylvia, New England U. T. W. A. organizer, before she returned. The union New England offices are in Pawtucket.

Holds Slight Hope

Questioned whether the Hamilton local would disband and surrender its charter if the mill stockholders voted to liquidate, she said the matter had not yet been given consideration, indicating she held some slight hope the plant would reopen.

A union meeting was held in Pilsudski hall at 3 p. m. today but nothing of importance concerning the closing of the plant was expected to arise. Miss Gauthier explained the meeting was called merely as an expedient of keeping the union forces together and that no business was listed for transaction.

She said she had no idea how union members felt concerning the recommendation of the directors to liquidate, the decision having come too late last night to be discussed at a full meeting of members.

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, which tried unsuccessfully to settle the strike, said today it had no comment to offer on the directors' meeting yesterday.

In Dudley Tomorrow
Members of the board also could fix no date for the release of their statement in which they will fix blame for the calling of the strike Nov. 14 and for its continuance.

Chairman Edward Fisher plans to visit Dudley tomorrow in another attempt to settle the strike at the Stevens linen mill but is not expected to come to Southbridge.

Alfred Hevey, 23, of 664 Main st., sought by police since Dec. 6 on assault and battery charges, surrendered himself shortly after 10 p. m. yesterday at Police headquarters here. He was accompanied by Atty William W. Buckley, who has been acting as counsel for the strikers.

Hevey is charged with assault and battery on Lionel Dupre and Trefle Dayleau, both of whom were workers at the Hamilton mill when it closed and who reside at 538 Main st.

Released Under Bond

Police claim Hevey attacked the two men as they were returning home after the mill had closed for the day and eluded Officer Arthur Butler.

He was released under bond of \$200 on each of the charges and will be arraigned in District court Monday.

Employees of the company who were on its payroll when the plant closed were paid today, receiving a second check for a full week's wages.

Accompanying the checks was the following message:

"To the loyal employees of the Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc.:

"In accordance with my promise of last week there has been included with your check of last week an additional check for one full week's wages. I deeply regret that the decision to close the mill was forced upon the company. The management wishes to take this means of expressing its gratitude for the remarkable spirit which you have shown."

The notice was signed for the woolen company by Richard Lennihan, president.

Party Is Planned

The union plans to hold a Christmas party tomorrow from 8:30 to 8:30 p. m. in Pilsudski hall for the 400 children of members. Gifts will be given all children present. A dance will follow from 9 to 12 p. m. Music will be furnished by an orchestra composed of union members. Members will be admitted to the dance without charge.

The committee for the Christmas party includes Mrs. Lena Pion and Mrs. Flora Laffamme of Fiskdale and Mrs. Robert Lazarin, Mrs. Anthony daDalt and Miss Catherine Reilly, secretary of the Hamilton local.

The committee for the dance includes Anna Norowski, Alphege Cournoyer, Gerald Gauthier, John Breezy, Bertha Schrych and Ella Lavallee.

The directors, in their statement issued yesterday recommending liquidation, said that in 1926 and 1927 the firm lost nearly \$1,000,000 and its directors at

that time were faced with the question of closing the mill.

Radical Changes

A majority of the directors on the board at that time believed the mill could be operated successfully if a new management were secured, the statement continued. The stockholders concurred and radical changes in the plant and methods of manufacture and sale were made.

Gradual success followed and was attributed by the directors to three factors: hearty co-operation by employees, efficient management, and the good will of the people of Southbridge.

Successful operation followed for six years, the statement said, with pleasant relations among the management, employees, stockholders and residents of Southbridge.

The directors pointed out that although operations had to be curtailed at times during the depression, employment at the mill was steady compared with that in other similar companies.

Need Police Help

Members of the board said the picture changed entirely in 1934 when the general textile strike was called Sept. 4. The woolen company employees remained at work but on the night of Sept. 5, flying squadrons of pickets invaded Southbridge, compelling the solicitation of help from Southbridge police to enable workers on the night shift to reach their homes in safety.

The following morning, the

statement said, despite the crowds which milled outside the plant nearly all workers returned. At 11 a. m., however, the management, in the face of threats of personal violence and disorders, closed the mill for the safety of its employes, the directors continued.

Outside organizers then came to Southbridge and shortly announced the formation of a local at the mill, the review of the situation said.

Strike Terms Given

In order came the President's plea to restore workers without discrimination to their jobs, the resumption of activities on Sept. 24 and a strike on Sept. 27, the statement added.

The terms of the settlement of the Sept. 24 strike were given.

The directors claimed the union had violated the agreement when the Nov. 14 strike call was issued. Departments were crippled and the normal flow of goods in process was stopped, they said.

In the statement, the directors said they believed friendly co-operation between the management and employes could be restored until violence destroyed the hope.

The directors said they had arrived at the conclusion successful operation of the mill would be impossible in the future because of prevalent conditions here and, accordingly, had arranged to call a special meeting of the stockholders and voted to recommend liquidation.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

The statement made by the board of directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. last night, in which it was recommended to the stockholders that the business be liquidated, follows in full:

In 1926 and 1927 The Hamilton Woolen Co. lost nearly \$1,000,000 and its directors faced the question of closing the mills and winding up the business. A majority of those directors, all but one of whom are on the present board, believed that a successful business could be re-established if operations were continued under new management. They made this recommendation to the stockholders and the latter voted to keep the mills open. The Town of Southbridge received this decision with great satisfaction. The new management made radical changes in plant and in methods of manufacture and selling. The difficulties were great, and though at first results were discouraging, progress was steadily made and the company was able to compete successfully with other manufacturers of similar goods.

This success was due to three factors: hearty co-operation by employees, efficient management and the goodwill of the people of Southbridge.

For a period of over six years successful operations continued with pleasant relations between the management and its employes and with satisfactory results to the stockholders, employees and the people of Southbridge. Although operations have necessarily been curtailed during certain periods of the depression, employment at the Hamilton mills has been steady compared with that in other similar companies.

This picture changed entirely in September 1934. The general textile strike was called for Sept. 4. Our employes remained at work. During the night of Sept. 5 "flying squadrons" from other towns and other States came into Southbridge and swarmed about the mill, making it necessary to secure protection by the local police to enable the night force to reach their homes in safety. By the following morning this crowd had increased in size so that the streets about the mill were filled with automobiles and people, making it hazardous for the employes to return to their jobs. In spite of this, substantially all of the employes reported for work. Disorder and threats of personal violence increased during the forenoon to the extent that by 11 o'clock the management decided that the safety of the employes required closing the mill.

Outside union organizers came into the Town and announced that a local union had been formed.

Shortly thereafter the President of the United States appointed a board of inquiry into the causes of the textile strikes which were prevalent in many parts of the country. On Sept. 22 President Roosevelt urged that all workers return to their jobs and that all employers take them back without discrimination.

The Hamilton Woolen Co. re-opened on Sept. 24, 1934. During the shut-down new orders could not be secured and the orderly process of working material through the mill had been interrupted. The same number of machines which had stopped on Sept. 6 could not immediately resume operation. The management took back as far as possible all employes for whom there was work without partiality. The force was increased daily as increase of production made it possible.

Two days later, without notice to the management that any grievances existed which had not been disposed of, the union lead-

ers, claiming that discrimination had been shown in the re-employment of workers, called another strike for Sept. 27. Increased violence resulted which made it necessary for the State police to protect the personal safety of employes who desired to work.

The following day the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration came to Southbridge to confer with the management and union representatives. An oral agreement was made between the management, the union, the strike organizers, and the State Board providing for: (a) the re-employment by the company wherever possible of all those on the payroll at the time of the first shut-down; (b) the establishment of procedure for the arbitration of all grievances; and (c) the submission for arbitration of any future disputes to the State board before another strike would be called. The mill again opened and took back on the same jobs as far as work permitted all those who had been employed at the time of the closing on Sept. 6. New orders were taken, at prices which represented no profit to the mill, in order that the available work might be further increased.

In violation of this agreement, on Nov. 14, the union again called a strike, although no unsettled complaint was pending with the management and no case had been referred to the State board. The mill continued its efforts to carry on and the number of employes steadily increased until approximately two-thirds of its normal number of employes were working, notwithstanding a continuation of violence which in an increasing degree was an incident of this strike in spite of the patient attendance of the State police. This strike resulted in tying up one of the essential departments of the mill, thus stopping the normal flow of goods in process.

As soon as a meeting could be arranged, representatives of the management met with representatives of the union, the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, and two representatives of the government from Washington. At this meeting the State board proposed a basis of settlement worked out in collaboration with the representatives from Washington, which proposal the management agreed to accept, but which the union officials flatly rejected.

Until outside interference and violence destroyed beyond hope of restoration the friendly co-operative relations which formerly existed between the company and its employes, the board of directors believed as strongly as anyone in Southbridge that it was to the interest of the management of the company, its shareholders and the employes to continue operations. Unfortunately, the combined efforts of the churches, merchants, manufacturers, Selectmen and loyal workers in the mill and of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration could not counteract the destructive influence of outside agitators. The mill has experienced strikes and interruptions over a period of 14 weeks having twice acceded to the demands and reopened without prejudice to the strikers and on the agreement that further strikes would not be called before arbitration. The mill has had a further strike called in violation of the above agreements on the part of the union representatives. Finally, the union has refused to accept the recommendations of the government's representatives and there has been an increase in violence and intimidation. Therefore, the directors have come to the conclusion that successful operation of the mill in the future will be impossible and that to continue to accede to the demands under the conditions which now exist in Southbridge would result in the rapid dissipation of the assets of the company. The directors deplore this, but believe that nothing is to be gained by refusing to face facts.

The directors have, therefore, arranged to call a special meeting of the stockholders, and have voted to recommend the liquidation of the company.

Decision of Mill Directors To Ask Liquidation Arouses Interest Throughout East

New York Times and Herald Tribune Give Complete Accounts of Action Taken Yesterday by Board Of Hamilton Co.; Many Editorials Printed

Decision of the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. yesterday to recommend liquidation of the Southbridge mill brought the town into prominence in newspapers throughout the east.

The New York Times started a column-long story on the first page, reprinting most of the statement of the directors.

The New York Herald Tribune devoted nearly a column to the recommendation to liquidate the plant, obtaining its history of the strike from John C. Donaldson, New York manager for the concern.

Virtually all morning papers in Boston today gave the directors'

decision to conclude the affairs of the company space under major headlines on the first page.

Developments yesterday in the strike situation were regarded by the Gardner News as sufficiently important to warrant carrying the story as its leading news article of the day.

A majority of the papers were inclined to emphasize the interference of outside organizers as one of the forces which compelled the closing of the mill.

The Boston Post commented adversely on the directors' recommendation to liquidate. (The Post editorial is reprinted on the editorial page of The News today.)

The strike also drew a front page editorial in the Lawrence Telegram last week, where vital interest was expressed in the local situation, Lawrence being primarily a textile center. Other newspapers in New England also printed editorials and daily news reports during the latter part of the strike.

Letters to the editors of papers were evoked by the strike, the Boston Herald having printed one last Friday at the top of its column of letters. * * *

the most gracious season of all the year.

John A. Chumbley, representative of the Federal Textile Labor board, who is in Southbridge, said, "I have wired Washington. We are not ready to give up hope yet by any means."

A similar attitude was taken by Edward Fisher, chairman of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. He said, "I am disappointed by the action taken by the board of directors of the Hamilton Woolen. It will mean that we will shortly issue our report fixing the blame for the strike, unless there may still be some hope of a settlement."

The statement issued by the board of directors came through the offices of Doremus and Company, after the board had been in session Wednesday at the Second National bank at Boston.

J. Edouard Demers, chairman of the Southbridge board of selectmen, when informed by the Globe of the action of the directors, said "I am so stunned that I cannot talk about it."

In protest against the action of the directors, Ira Mosher, also a director, resigned from the board, absolutely dissenting from the others. He has since given his moral and active support to every way to induce the company to change its attitude. The M. & M. association and the Tax Payers organization headed by Ralph Robbins, a large property holder, have done everything possible to save the mills to Southbridge.

The following statement of Richard Lennihan, made at the public hearing is a connected review of the trouble at the mill beginning last September when the first of the strikes was called at the behest of out of town and insome instances out of state organizers.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration:

[This meeting has been called to consider the relations of the Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc. and its employees. I am sorry to say that it is too

tions. The Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc. has closed its mill much against its will, because it was forced to do so.

My understanding of the facts leading up to this decision is this.

In 1927 the Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc. was losing money rapidly and the question of closing the mill was receiving serious consideration. The group which constitutes the present management did not think the mill should be closed. They opposed the views of a former management, took the fight to a stockholders' meeting in February 1928, won out and continued the operation of the mill. The mill has operated from that time until last Tuesday. It was at first a struggle but loyal support from the employees and good cooperation between employees and the executive forces made possible what at first seemed at least doubtful and the record of the company during the five years of depression has been one in which I believe every one or at least nearly every one in the organization has taken a real satisfaction. Employment has been steady compared to that in most similar enterprises and our financial condition which at first was very shaky has become stable. These conditions continued until September 6, 1934, two days after the general textile strike started elsewhere. On the evening of Sept. 6 so-called flying squads came into town. Violence started. Employees were intimidated and the mill closed to prevent injury to persons and property. From that time on there has been much unrest. The mill was opened in response to the request of the President of the United States and every one taken back as fast as production made this possible. On September 27th a strike was called accompanied by violence. On the following Monday again every one that could be put to work was taken back under an oral agreement with union representatives and your board that all disputes which could not be settled with the management would be submitted to the State Board before a strike could be called. On November 14 although the management had not heard of any cases in dispute a strike was called.

The company has always recognized the rights of its employees stated in Section 7a of the National Industrial Recovery Act, to organize, to join any union and to be represented by leaders of their own choosing. A minority of the employees of the company joined the strike. The demands made by spokesmen for the strikers in substance required that the functions of selection, discipline and retention of employees be surrendered to a union of which a minority of the employees of the company were members.

On November 19th the company issued a statement in which it set forth that it was not willing to continue to operate in Southbridge under conditions which threatened the safety of the lives and property of its employees and their families and that it would not attempt to operate a closed shop. In spite of police protection the violence has continued, the lives and property of the employees and their families have been in jeopardy. Under the conditions successful operation of the mill is impossible either from the point of view of the employees who did not wish to join the union or of the owners. In accordance with the statement made on November 19 the company has definitely decided to close the mill permanently.

To those employees whose cooperation during the years since 1927 has made our success possible and to the citizens of the Town of Southbridge in which I have lived and worked for over seven years and where I had hoped to spend the rest of my life I can only say that my regret is as great, if not greater than that of any one else that this decision should have been forced upon me as well as upon my associates. But I agree with the decision—Where people who wish to work cannot do so safely without danger to themselves or their families to say nothing of their property the management cannot take the responsibility. When the management of a company is no longer in the hands of those that are responsible for its success it is impossible to continue operating.

Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc.
By Richard Lennihan, President.

REGRETS LEAVING SOUTHBRIDGE

Regretfully leaving Southbridge yesterday for a job in Rhode Island one of the strikers at the Hamilton mills was unreserved in his expression of sadness in having to quit the place where he was born and of which will always remain in his heart the sweetest memories of his childhood and youth. Reminded by a friend that it might have been otherwise had there been no strike, or if it had not been carried to extremes, he sadly observed, "Too late, too late now."

Hamilton Woolen To Liquidate

Directors See No Other Way Out

Conditions Resulting From Frequent Strikes Compel Action

Community Dazed By Decision

Stockholders To Meet At Once

That the Hamilton Woolen Co. had definitely decided to liquidate its assets, every discerning person was convinced after Richard Lennihan, president of the company had finished his talk from the stage of the Southbridge town hall last Friday.

He began with the startling statement, made with the greatest earnestness, that the public hearing of the townspeople before the state board of conciliation and arbitration, then and there in progress had come too late.

The directors of the company, after long and most serious deliberation had decided that the company must bring to an end its hundred years of corporate existence.

Labor Organizer Sylvia and the remnant of strikers who still followed his direction absolutely, mingling with the dispersing crowd made haste to spread the slogan "All a luff." Mr. Sylvia must have known that it was time to take a different view.

The state board, after hearing both sides under oath stated that it would make a report fixing the blame for the strikers in two or three days. That report had not been made public at this writing. But no one has any thought that it will make any difference in the decision arrived at by the directors of the company.

Since last Friday the company directors have held several meetings

in Boston, trying to see some way to continue. They say there is no way but to liquidate. The community, headed by the authorized spokesmen, is doing everything in its power to ward off the calamity, their efforts so far being fruitless. From the first the Manufacturers and Merchants association has been doing yeoman service in trying to stem the tide against liquidation, not for a moment relinquishing its efforts and its proffers of mediation. The striking minority at the mill have stood apart and far away from any efforts coming from the community or its organizations or citizens. But, the nearly 700 loyal workers at the mill have carried themselves well, with every desire to render assistance toward an amicable settlement. To them all credit is due, and now that they are forced to seek work elsewhere, the sympathy of all goes out to them. Many of them have grown old in the service of the company and there are faithful employees who are of the third generation of Hamilton workers. These have spent their entire lives here, and now advanced in years, must remain idle eking out an existence. They were contented and loyal, self-reliant, self-respecting and in every way worthy citizens.

Of the more than one thousand employees of the company nearly all are thrown out of work in the midst of winter, even at Christmas time,

Some Hope for Hamilton Mills

Townpeople Waiting for Miss Gauthier to Reply

She Consulted a Rhode Island Organizer Yesterday

State Board Urges Calling Strike Off at Once

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration moved yesterday afternoon to prevent the permanent closing of the Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc. mills in Southbridge and also to adjust the strikes in Webster and Dudley.

The state board sent a telegram to Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Southbridge Local of the United Textile Workers of America:

"The board recommends and urges the immediate calling off of the strike now in progress at the Hamilton Woolen Mills. The situation calls for a major, not minor operation. If and when recommendation is accepted, the board will immediately make further recommendations to the company and employees, giving a fair and reasonable basis for adjustment which will afford protection to the rights of all parties concerned."

Miss Jean Gauthier could not be reached for a statement on the recommendation of the board as she had left for Pawtucket, R. I. to confer with Joseph Sylvia, New England U. T. W. organizer.

Richard Lennihan, president of the company, would not comment on the state board's move. He did say, however, that notices will be sent to the stockholders today announcing the date of their meeting and informing them that the directors recommend the liquidation of the company.

Public officials and merchants of the town will do everything in their power to keep the industry in Southbridge. Prayers have been offered and sundry petitions circulated in an effort to end the difficulties.

The 680 employees who remained at their jobs during the strike were each given a week's pay.

At Barrington, R. I. last night Sylvia denied he had seen either Miss Gauthier or Chumbley and characterized as "cockeyed" the story of a conference among them. He declined to discuss the Southbridge strike other than to admit that Francis J. Gorman, vice president of the U. T. W. A. will confer with him in Providence and will issue a statement which will be a revelation to Massachusetts people.

Sylvia would not admit that Gor-

man had been summoned from Washington to take over the leadership of the union in the Southbridge controversy, but he said Gorman, who was director of the recent nationwide strike of textile workers, is scheduled to speak Sunday in Putnam, Conn. and Webster, and may take the opportunity to speak in Southbridge.

A petition signed by 250 business men of Southbridge was presented to the directors, asking that the mill be kept open on the ground it was vital to Southbridge.

The corporation is said to represent an investment of \$1,500,000, and the directors, in announcing their decision said that to yield further to the union demands would "result in the rapid dissipation of the assets of the company."

"Until outside interference and violence destroyed beyond hope of restoration the friendly cooperative relations which formerly existed between the company and its employees, the board of directors believed as strongly as any one in Southbridge that it was to the interest of the management of the company, its shareholders and employees to continue operations," said the statement issued by the directors.

"Unfortunately, the combined efforts of the churches, merchants, manufacturers, selectmen and loyal workers in the mill and of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration could not counteract the destructive influence of outside agitators.

The mill had experienced strikes and interruptions over a period of fourteen weeks, having twice acceded to the demands and re-opened without prejudice to the strikers and on the agreement that further strikes would not be called before arbitration.

Finally, the union has refused to accept the recommendations of the government's representatives and there was an increase in violence and intimidation.

The directors added that they "deplored" the closing, but "have come to the conclusion that successful operation of the mill in the future will be impossible."

CAN DUDLEY KEEP ITS MILL?

The town of Dudley appears in a fair way to lose the Stevens linen mill, and unless the dangers lying all about are quickly comprehended and met with sanity, our neighbors may wake up some day presently to find their industry has been closed for good.

The strike was recently settled by the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration on terms similar to those proposed for the Hamilton mill, accepted by the management, and rejected by outside organizers. Stevens strikers went back to work, and it was hoped the trouble was over.

Now the non-strikers, who are in the majority, declare it is necessary to form a protective association, or independent union, to bargain collectively with the management in the interest of continued peaceful employment. They say the returned strikers continue their abuse and intimidation of fellow workers.

According to Richard Wales, head of the new organization, conditions are intolerable. Girl workers have been made targets for pieces of ice thrown by former strikers, and insulting remarks have been made to frighten the peaceably inclined, he declares.

Mr. Wales thinks another strike may be brewing, but he believes the new protective association would be fully capable of handling the situation should anyone be insane enough to walk out again.

What all workers are apt to forget is that a management has serious problems in addition to labor relations. Bad business conditions, unfortunate breaks in the markets, scarcity of orders that may be filled at a profit—all these things wear down a management. The Stevens mill, like the Hamilton Woolen Co., has problems of this kind, and another strike might prove the last straw.

At a special Town meeting the voters of Dudley recently asked that the State police be taken away from the task of guarding the mill and the employees who wished to work. William T. Dowling, treasurer of the Stevens company, has written to the Selectmen asking for an itemized bill of police expenses which he undertakes to pay, and in his letter he adds:

"Our company has been intensely interested in the welfare and the happiness of all the residents of this town, where we have operated for so many years with a reasonable amount of success and a most enviable record for providing steady employment, and we sincerely hope that apart from labor difficulties that some of the other, even more serious problems, now facing us may disappear before making it necessary to seriously consider taking steps, which, if carried out, might result in most disastrous consequences to all of us concerned."

That means the mill may close unless the business situation clears up and the workers remain at their jobs.

According to the Federal Trade commission the whole textile industry was very sick in July and August. Francis Gorman thought the proper medicine to tone up the industry would be a rip-roaring general strike, which he conducted until President Roosevelt intervened. A great many textile mills are sicker now than they were last summer, and more strike medicine will prove sure death in many cases.

We sympathize with all concerned, but particularly with the peaceably inclined majority of workers who wish to help a hard-pressed management succeed and thus protect their own employment.

Southbridge Mill Strike

Called Off

U. T. W. Orders Hamilton
Woolen Workers to Return
Pending Negotiation

Surrender Fails to
Halt Closing Plan

1000 Employees to Find Doors Shut Monday, President Lennihan Indicates

Providence, Dec. 22 (A.P.)—At the suggestion of the Massachusetts Labor Relations Board, the United Textile Workers of America headquarters has ordered the striking workers at the Hamilton Woolen Mills in Southbridge to return to work Monday.

It is understood that the company has agreed to take back striking union members without discrimination and give them work on the same basis as non-union workers and that pending questions in the dispute will be settled by negotiation.

The strike, the third at the plant since last summer, had resulted in a vote by the board of directors to close the mill permanently and to liquidate the concern. This action was expected to throw out of work 1000 workers, one-fifth of the working population of Southbridge and neighboring towns.

Southbridge, Dec. 21 (Special)—The Hamilton Woolen Company mills will not reopen Monday despite the capitulation of the United Textile Workers of America, President Richard Lennihan said today. He had not been officially informed of the calling off of the strike.

Despite the action of the union, it was authoritatively learned that the mills are definitely closed and will liquidate. The workers were given an ultimatum a few days ago and when no agreement was reached, liquidation plans were immediately begun.

Miss Jean Gauthier, local union leader, was out of town and could not be reached, but Miss Catherine Reilly, secretary of the local said it was the first she had heard of the order and that she had no comment to make.

JAN. 15 MAY SEE DECISIVE ACTION ON SOUTHBRIDGE

Stockholders of Hamilton
Mills to Meet in Boston
On That Day

GORMAN DEFIANT AT WEBSTER RALLY

'Walk Right Out if Things
Are Not Right,' He Tells
2000 Hearers

While the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Company at Southbridge yesterday were announcing a meeting of stockholders in Boston, Jan. 15 to consider liquidation of the business as a result of recent labor disturbances, Francis J. Gorman, vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America, was addressing 2000 persons at the largest labor meeting ever held in Webster. A large number of Southbridge strikers were present.

"If conditions are not right in your mill, you do not have to notify the management you are going to strike," Gorman told the workers. "Walk right out!"

Headed by a brass band and drum corps, 2000 workers, most of them women, marched through Webster streets, four abreast, before they entered the municipal auditorium. Gorman told them he would confer with the management of the Hamilton mill in Southbridge and Stevens linen mills in Webster to try to settle existing strikes.

John A. Chumbley, representatives of the national labor relations board, was present as an observer. After the meeting, he conferred with Gorman on a strike settlement plan.

In spite of the recent petition of 2500 townspeople and business men that the Hamilton mills should be kept open, B. Loring Young, for the corporation, announced last night that the stockholders would meet at the Boston Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday, Jan. 15, to consider liquidating and winding up the affairs of the corporation and authorizing its dissolution.

A two-thirds vote of stockholders will be necessary to close the mill.

GORMAN'S ADDRESS

Gorman, in his address, said:

The NRA code is being violated not only in Georgia but in Massachusetts as well. The machine load for employees has increased from 55 hours a week to 80 hours. Before the code, cloth for men's suits was selling for \$1.25 a yard. Today it is sold for \$2.75, the manufacturers getting the profit.

We want a 30-hour week. The stretchout system is sending workers to early graves. Hospital reports show 80 per cent. of tuberculosis patients are textile workers.

We must have the closed shop. It is legal. Unless the employers give in, a new philosophy will be set up in the United States. Walk right out. The federal trade commission has already investigated 3000 mills and its report will be forthcoming in January. President Roosevelt has never yet broken a promise.

LETTER TO STOCKHOLDERS

The directors' letter to stockholders of the Hamilton Woolen Company, after reviewing the history of its labor troubles the last few months, said in part:

In violation of their agreement, the union on Nov. 14 again called a strike, although no unsettled complaint was pending with the management and no case had been referred to the state board. Some of the employees left their work under circumstances which resulted in the destruction of materials in process. Heavier losses were avoided only by quick action on the part of loyal employees. Violence became increasingly serious. In spite of the patient at-

temptance of the state police. The mill continued its efforts to carry on in the face of this strike and the number of employees steadily increased, until approximately two-thirds of the normal number of employees were working. The strike, however, resulted in tying up the weave room, one of the essential departments of the mill. In this manner a minority of the employees were able to paralyze the mill. The directors were unwilling to import professional strike breakers.

The management issued a statement on Nov. 19 to the employees of the company and the people of the community setting forth the essential facts, calling attention to the serious danger that a continuation of existing conditions would result in destruction of the business and stating definitely that the management was "not willing to continue to operate in Southbridge under conditions which threaten the safety of the lives and property of its employees and their families" and that it would not attempt to operate a closed shop.

EFFORTS TO SETTLE

As soon as a meeting could be arranged, representatives of the management met with representatives of the union, the state board of conciliation and arbitration, and two representatives of the government from Washington. At this meeting, the state board proposed a basis of settlement worked out in collaboration with the representatives from Washington, which proposal the management agreed to accept, but which the union officials flatly rejected. The demands made by spokesmen for the strikers in substance required that the functions of selection, discipline and retention of employees be surrendered to a union of which only a minority of the employees were members, and the union refused to negotiate a settlement on any other basis. Your representatives have held to the position that when the management of a company is no longer in the hands of those responsible for its success, it is impossible to continue operating. As a result of these fundamentally inconsistent points of view, no agreement could be reached at this meeting or in subsequent negotiations.

During this entire period, disorder, violence and intimidation of employees who desired to work have continued with increasing seriousness. The management has not felt safe in accepting orders in view of the grave uncertainty as to its ability to fulfill its commitments. The labor situation has become completely demoralized and the efficiency of those employees who continued at their jobs has been seriously impaired by the threats and intimidations of the strikers. Naturally, doing business under these unsettled and disturbing circumstances results in substantial operating losses.

RELUCTANT TO GIVE UP

Your directors have been reluctant to give up a business which has been and should have continued to be profitable to the stockholders and employees and beneficial to the community, and thus to precipitate a liquidation of the company which must necessarily result in unemployment in Southbridge and the consequent hardships. Until the continued outside interference and violence destroyed beyond hope of restoration the friendly, co-operative relations which formerly existed between the company and its employees, the directors believed as strongly as anyone that it was to the interest of all parties concerned to continue operations. The directors kept constantly in mind the interests of the community as long as any hope of a real adjustment existed. Unfortunately the combined efforts of employees who desired to work, the merchants, manufacturers, selectmen and churches could not counteract the destructive influence of outside agitators.

The directors have finally been forced to the conclusion that the situation is hopeless, that any adjustment of the present difficulties which might be reached would be temporary and that continuation of the business would result in the rapid dissipation of the assets of the company and its forced liquidation. They believe that nothing is to be gained by refusing to face the facts, unpleasant as they may be, and that it is for your interest that the company should be liquidated.

WEBSTER, Dec. 24.—The speech of Francis J. Gorman, national vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America, as delivered in the Municipal auditorium yesterday, follows, in part: *Worcester Gazette.*

They made the codes. We don't like them all, we'll admit, but there is some good in them. We would not want the children working in mills 60 or 70 hours a week in the South, so the Administration said we are going to abolish child labor—but the leaders of the industry regularly appear in the newspapers with a statement about cotton code, Code No. 1, and all that it has done for Labor. Yes, we agree to these things it did for Labor:

Child Labor Gone

It reduced the hours of labor from 55 to 40. Yes, it abolished child labor, but industry didn't do that, the Administration did that. As a matter of fact, children should never have been in the mills. The government said you have to take them out, but now they are holding up their arms, telling the people of the United States what a great thing they did when they abolished child labor. They shouldn't boast so much about that, they shouldn't pin so many medals on themselves, and if there wasn't any NRA code today, some of them would be right back employing children 10 and 12 years of age in the mills, because the textile industry has been built on this thing, built on the exploitation of women and children, built on watered capital, on the theory that they can increase the capital—capital of a million up to five million, without paying one cent, by making the worker pay the dividends on the increased capital. That means that you men earn profits and dividends on the increased capital and increased watered stock they give their stockholders. I could recite you, yes, a hundred instances; some right around you, where this has been done.

The President asked the employers to take the workers back without discrimination. The President of the United States makes a request. That is considered a demand. If the President of the United States asked any one of us in this hall this afternoon to go to Washington to see him, we would consider that a demand, and we would go. And these employers are so patriotic, they are so thoroughly American, that they look upon that request of the President as a joke, and they said to him in words to the effect: "No we will not take the workers back without discrimination. We believe in the NRA, we are willing to accept the increased profits, we are willing to take all the benefits, but we do not propose to allow these people to form a union, and if we took back these leaders they are going to get a union, and we don't want it, even if it is the law of the United States."

That is what they said, and that is what they have done, and that is our fight beginning the new year, and that is the reason I am here today. Unless they decide among themselves to carry out the provision of the strike settlement, unless they agree to carry out the request of the President of the United States, unless they agree to permit our unions to function, this Spring—some newspapers say the Winter, but I say the Spring of 1935 will see the biggest strike the United States has ever had. We don't like strikes in Winter. But when the birds start to chirp, we have discovered that from the standpoint of psychology, the worker begins to say to himself, "We may as well get out in the fresh air for ourselves." We have learned this too, the employer never consults the worker when he wants to close down. He shuts down for a day, a week, a month, or a year. He never comes to the worker and says, "Do you think we ought to close down? What can we do to keep open?" He closes it down when he wants to. And we are going to close down when we want to.

Another Strike.

From all parts of the country, I am receiving messages in my office saying that they feel confident we are going to get results from the settlement of the strike, but when we do, I think we should have another strike in the Spring. Of course, you say, that is foolish, if you haven't anything to strike for, but that shows, as we showed last September, when they said we could get only about 10,000 out, and 500,000 left their looms and withheld labor, they were astonished and amazed. Let us see what happens.

One of our organizers was arrested in Georgia, charged with rioting and he was held in \$75,000 bail—for rioting. Another one of our organizers was exiled from the state of North Carolina for 99 years, if he went back he would have to do two years on the chain gang. The poor 'fathead' went back, and is now on the chain gang. For rioting.

The President in his proposal said there could not be any increase in the machine load, but some employers are doing it now, because they know a board has been appointed to have these reduced, and they feel they could get less reduced when the time comes. And so the President said that we will investigate the financial structure of the companies in the cotton, wool and silk, and I will authorize the Federal Trade commission to make an investigation. Very little was known among the textile workers about the Federal Trade board, but I may say from my contact with the commission, I am confident that the result of their investigation is going to be fair and just, for the personnel of that board is such that the workers' rights are going to be protected. I say that advisedly, because possibly among our people you may not expect it, I think we are going to get a square deal under this commission. That is the first time it has ever been done. There are those of you who will recall that for 10 and 20 years we have been demanding investigations in order that we might know the full story of watered stock and capital. We are going to get it through this investigation, better even than we ever hoped.

Wide Investigation

Before I left Washington I was informed that along the first of the year, the Federal Trade commission would be in a position to make a report on approximately 3000 mills whom they have investigated.

Over 100 investigators went out from Washington into all parts of the United States, went into the mills and over the books. Representatives of the Union have sat down with them, and talked over wage and conditions in the woolen, cotton, and silk industries, and the reports can be expected, one about Jan. 7 for cotton; about a week later for silk, and a week later for wool.

This is going to be a fight. I am quite confident that the investigation of the mills will prove a revelation to the people of the United States.

We are not aiming to overthrow the government of the United States, like they charged. We stand, and our local unions will stand on the records which speak for themselves. We are a thoroughly American organization, and we are not instituted in the defense of isms, that we are surrounded with—Communism, Fascism, Nazism, or any other ism.

I want to deny emphatically a statement appearing in the New York Sun last Friday, spread all over the front page, that our organization in Southbridge is dominated by Communists and Reds. That story, spread over the front page of the New York papers for a purpose—to discredit the men and women who are making a fight for their lives, making a fight for better conditions, making a fight for a square deal. Our organization in Southbridge, our organization in Webster, is controlled and supervised by real men and women, and real trade unionists.

The last strike was caused primarily on account of the refusal of the employers to sit around the conference table and discuss the issues. That statement can be substantiated in Washington. We set forth certain issues upon which we voted to strike. For many months we realized that the textile industry could not operate 80 machine hours for the 40-hour week. As a matter of fact, since the code, the average work week in the textile industry for machine operation has been 66 hours. And I think those of you who are employed in the woolen and worsted industry, particularly, and this also applies to silk on a smaller scale, will recall that before the code, these mills very seldom operated in more than one shift. There may have been a time when they worked overtime, but very seldom. But they put on two shifts. As a matter of fact, during the hearings in Washington, it was found out that

Gorman Giving Speech



Photo (c) International Newsreel

TEXTILE WORKERS' HEAD ADDRESSES STRIKERS

WEBSTER, Dec. 24.—Francis J. Gorman, national vice-president of the United Textile Workers' Union, is shown addressing the meeting here yesterday, his words being carried to 3000 listeners by the microphone.

the industry worked about 55 and a fraction hours a week. That means that 55 and a fraction hours of industry was capable of producing everything that the consumers in the United States needed, and permitted about 7 or 8 per cent for our export trade.

Itself a Union

Now, if that is so, how can we expect the mills to operate steadily for 80 hours? We said these things at the hearing, and as you know, in the making of the codes, the employers were authorized by the United States government to come to Washington with their organization, to come to Washington representing their trade association—to come to Washington representing their union, if you please, because it is nothing less than a union. They have their union, they have their organization; they cherish it; they pay their dues; they attend their meetings; they counsel with each other. And on the other hand, they say to us, "You have no right to your union. We don't want you to have an organization. We have managed to keep you out so many years while we were tearing down the conditions in the mills, that we don't want you to have the union, because it will put them back."

And in back of this whole structure is that opposition to the union, but I say that the government in Washington said to the employers, "You come here with your trade association—you come here with your union, and you make this code that was part of the NRA." And they did.

And the government said in every code you make you will insert that labor is given the right to bargain collectively, and by representation, and there was no choice. The government says it is not for you to agree on that, it must be in there. It has been put in, but it has been violated in the textile code, not only in Georgia, but in the state of Massachusetts. Massachusetts, with a reputation of being one of the leading progressive states in the Union. Yes, these men will give lip service to the NRA, they give three cheers for the NRA, the National Recovery. We have seen them come out of the red, we have seen them come from losses to gains, from red to black, but what have the workers got?

Women in Industry

How about the woman who works in industry. Once she could buy a yard of things of this sort for \$1.25 and now she must pay \$2.75. Who is getting this? If you go into a store in Webster, or any city in the state of Massachusetts, they tell you they are not getting it, and if I ask you here this afternoon you can't say you are getting it. Who is getting it? Yes, they have increased their profits under the NRA; they have increased substantially, and they refuse to

share the increase with labor, and are trying to destroy our organization, because they know if they can keep us divided that we will not get any more.

Well, we went into the strike on the question of wages and hours; we set only about 30 hours work a week because it has been proven that industry cannot operate more than that many hours. There are some industries advising 40 hours, one shift. We demand shorter hours because we know that we are right. We demanded higher wages because we knew the employers are making greater profits under the NRA than before, and we have a right to part of it. We want our share of it. We demanded abolition of stretchout because it was an evil, a monster, because it was killing the people in our mills. It was the stretchout that was sending people to early graves; it was the stretchout that was making physical and mental wrecks of the workers in the mills. Too many machines. I might say to you that was the predominant urge, the real cause of the response, the tremendous response to the strike call.

Participation Dangerous

I told them in Putnam yesterday that they think they got away with it. Why, because they had us divided amongst ourselves, because our people refused to see the advisability and the necessity of organization. Yes, I will admit before the NRA it was dangerous in some cases for men and women to take a prominent part in the union. As a matter of fact, it is today, even under the NRA. We can recite cases in different parts of the country where officers of our local union are still being victimized. But before the NRA, I admit workers in the mill were fearful of coming into the union because of the powerful opposition of the employers to the union, and their ability to discriminate against those who dared to take a prominent part. That was to some extent largely responsible for not developing unions before the NRA. The government knew it. The government was well aware of the fact. The administration was in possession of the evidence, and when these men conceived the National Industrial Recovery Act, they knew just as we knew the code could never be successful, could never operate with fairness unless the worker was organized just as strongly as the employer was organized. The whole principle of the NRA is built on organization, and if the NRA falls down, it is because there is not enough organization among the workers to keep it alive. And I am not here today to say that the NRA has cleared away all the difficulties or solved all of our troubles. It hasn't, but I say it will, providing the workers create an organization that can equally match the organization of the employers. Yes, it will.

AS OTHERS SEE IT

SYMPATHY

(Gardner News)

Taxpayers of Southbridge have the deep sympathy of their fellows elsewhere. Struggling, as all of us are, with constantly increasing financial burdens due to unprecedented unemployment the country over and the steadily mounting costs of government and relief, the additional load brought about by the enforced closing of the mills of the Hamilton Woolen Co. is a cruel millstone to hang about Southbridge necks. It means distress, not only to the 400 strikers and their families and to the 600 and more employees of the mill and their families who preferred to work, but to every resident of the Town. They all must share the penalty of mistaken judgment of the organizers and leaders of the labor movement who are responsible for the bringing about of the conditions that forced the decision to liquidate the property.

Depriving a town the size of Southbridge of a payroll of a million a year makes the burden fall, like the rain, on the just and the unjust. Its effect will be evident long after those responsible for it have folded their tents and disappeared from the ken of those they have made miserable.

WORKER HAS PLAN FOR OPENING MILL

Loom-Fixer Says Priests Can Help Terminate Hamilton Strike

A slight, gray-haired, neatly dressed loom-fixer called at The News office Saturday afternoon with a communication written on brown wrapping paper, which he had entitled "Trenches between employers and employes in the Hamilton woolen mill." He hoped the editor would print his letter, in which he proposed that the workers themselves should try to bring peace and the reopening of the mill, with the aid of their parish priests. The letter follows: "Sir: Not long ago I came here looking for work and found it in the Hamilton Woolen Co. mill. From the beginning I was surprised to find it such a nice place; everybody pleasant from office boy to superintendent. In 36 years I have seen only one other place as good. They talked to their people like a mother to her child. If you asked for help the whole management was ready to help you out.

Outsiders Enter

"So I wondered why people at the Hamilton mill built trenches between the working people and the company. I wondered why working people could turn away their faith when they could talk to employers with smiling faces.

"Leaders came from out of town and told the employes: 'We are going to run that mill; we are going to show how it could be run right,' and the people believed them. The workers who think the out-of-town leaders are right are almost all young, who have lived here all their lives and do not know what other mills are like. If they knew as well as I do they would rather have \$15 a week here than \$20 in some other places.

"The leaders from out of town came here and promised you a golden mountain. They took you away from your work and then went away. The golden mountain went away, too. Even the bread you got before is taken out of your mouth.

Workers Can Settle

"Nobody can settle this but the working people. Go to your priests and ask for help. They have prayed for you and they will help you without fail. God says, pray AND work. Try calling a meeting under the leadership of the priests from all the churches, for the working people of the Hamilton mill. Ask the company to come to the meeting. I believe they are not going

to refuse. They will come with open arms and smiling lips and talk to our people and make friendship again between employers and employes.

"I appeal to all working people. Take off your coats, pick up shovels and fill up the trenches dug by our enemies between our employers and us. Do this for yourselves, your families, and the Town, and you will make a success without doubt, and the mill will open and run again without trouble.

"IGNACY KUPISZ"

MILL STOCKHOLDERS TO MEET ON JAN. 15

Hamilton Woolen Co. to Act on Liquidation Recommendation

SOUTHBRIDGE, Dec. 24.—Stockholders of the Hamilton Woolen Co. numbering about 300 today received notice of a special meeting to be held at Boston on Jan. 15 to act on the recommendation of the directors to liquidate.

The special meeting is called as a result of the strike, the third since Labor Day. The mills closed indefinitely Dec. 11 and all efforts to have the directors reconsider their action have so far proved fruitless.

Southbridge strikers numbering 300 were represented at the big meeting in Webster yesterday when Francis J. Gorman, national vice-president of the U. T. W. A. addressed 3000 persons in the Municipal auditorium, John Chumbe of Washington, sent here by the Federal Textile Relations board, who is making his headquarters in Southbridge, conferred with Mr. Gorman following the meeting.

Gorman Denies Order To Union; Local Plans No Vote to End Strike

Hamilton Concern Calls Stockholders to Meet Tuesday, Jan. 15

2 GIVEN SENTENCES

Company Statement Says Withdrawing Demands Will Not Help

Officials of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America said today they had made no plans to ballot on cancellation of the walkout at the strike-closed Hamilton Woolen Co. Francis J. Gorman, national vice-president of the union, denied yesterday in Webster he had ordered an end of the local strike.

He said no national official could order the ending of a walkout. He added the procedure was for the local involved to ballot whether it would terminate its strike activities.

Mr. Gorman said he planned to talk last night with Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, but no information was forthcoming today concerning the nature of the parley.

Stockholders to Meet

In the meantime, the Hamilton company moved to close its business in Southbridge, the directors announcing in a lengthy statement to stockholders they (the stockholders) had been called to meet Jan. 15 to vote on liquidation and dissolution of the firm.

The statement contained one significant sentence, which follows:

"No withdrawal of specific demands will restore the old relationships."

Persons close to Mr. Gorman indicated yesterday he hoped to settle the strike here before the New Year. He said he did not intend to see Richard Lennihan, president of the Hamilton firm. The basis for his hope was not explained.

Found Guilty

Alfred Hevey, 23, of 664 Main st. and Albert Lavallee, 30, of Lovely st., both were found guilty today arraigned in District court when on charges preferred after Lionel Dupre and Trefle Davieau, both of Main st. and both workers at the Hamilton plant, had been assaulted near the home of Miss Gauthier Dec. 6.

Hevey was charged with assaults on Davieau, Dupre and Officer Arthur Butler and disturbance and was fined \$10 on the first charge, \$15 on the second, \$15 on the third and \$10 on the fourth. He appealed all fines and furnished bond of \$25 in each case for his appearance in Worcester Superior court.

Lavallee, charged with assault on Dupre, was fined \$15 and appealed, furnishing \$25 bond for his appearance in Superior court next month.

The directors statement to stockholders follows:

Statement Given

"The enclosed notice undoubtedly will come as a shock to those of our stockholders who are not already familiar with the developments in Southbridge during the last four months. In order that you may fully understand the situation and particularly the recommendations of your directors, the following statement is made:

Talks in Webster



Francis J. Gorman, national vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America, who told 2,000 persons in the Municipal auditorium, Webster, yesterday another general textile strike would be called unless discrimination against union members were abandoned.

"You are already familiar with the success of your company under its present management, as shown by its continuous operation and its dividend record throughout the depression. During this period, until quite recently, its relations with its employees have been cordial, and there has been remarkably little labor trouble or unrest.

"Although the management has never opposed Unions, the employees have not previously been unionized. When the general textile strike was called on Sept. 4 of this year, the employees did not respond and the mill continued for a time unaffected. Within few days, however, strikers and labor agitators from other communities came to Southbridge in substantial numbers and serious trouble began. The violence was such that your officers considered it necessary to close the mill for the personal safety of the employees and the protection of their homes and the Company's property.

Breach Widens

"A detailed account of the following weeks would serve only to show a constantly-widening breach between the management and a considerable number of the employees, accompanied by frequent outbreaks of violence, in which police protection has been necessary. Outside organizers have established a Labor Union and have persuaded or coerced many of the employees into becoming members. The demands made by this Union and the position the management has taken and its repeated efforts toward conciliation are briefly summarized below.

"The general strike lasted approximately three weeks. During this period, it was impractical to attempt to reopen the mill. On Sept. 22, President Roosevelt issued a statement urging all textile workers to return to their jobs and all employers to take them back without discrimination. In response to this appeal, the Hamilton mill reopened on Sept. 24.

New Strike Called

"The resumption of operations had to be gradual. The closing had interrupted the process of working material through the mill and also, while the mill was closed, new orders could not be taken. The management resumed operation in good faith and offered re-employment to the employees as rapidly as operating conditions permitted, without partiality and without discrimination against Union members or others. The force was increased daily as rapidly as the available work permitted. Two days later, without allowing time for a complete resumption of operations and the re-employment of a complete force of operatives, without notice to the management that any grievances existed which had not been disposed of, and without warning, the Union leaders, claiming that discrimination was being shown in the re-employment of workers, called another strike for the following day, Sept. 27. Increased violence resulted, making it necessary for the State police to assist local authorities in protecting the personal safety of employees who desired to work and the mill.

Board Arrives

"The day following this strike, the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration came to Southbridge and conferred with the management and Union representatives. At this meeting, an oral agreement was made under which procedure was established for the arbitration of all grievances, the management agreed to re-employ, wherever possible, all those who were on the payroll at the time of the original closing, and the Union leaders agreed not to call another strike without first submitting for arbitration any matter in dispute to the State board. In accordance with this agreement, the mill again re-employed on the same jobs, as far as work permitted, all those who had been employed at the time of the original closing. New orders were taken at prices which represented no profit to the mill in order that the available work might be increased further.

"In violation of their agreement, the Union on Nov. 14 again called a strike, although no unsettled complaint was pending with the management and no case had been referred to the State board. Some of the employees left their work under circumstances which resulted in the destruction of materials in process. Heavier losses were avoided only by quick action on the part of loyal employees. Violence became increasingly serious, in spite of the patient attendance of the State police. The mill continued its efforts to carry on in the face of this strike and the number of employees steadily increased until approximately two-thirds of the normal number of employees were working. The strike, however, resulted in tying up the weave room, one of the essential departments of the mill. In this manner a minority of the employees were able to paralyze the mill. The directors were unwilling to import professional strike breakers.

Warning Issued

"The management issued a statement on Nov. 19 to the employees of the Company and the people of the community setting forth the essential facts, calling attention to the serious danger that a continuation of existing conditions would result in destruction of the business and stating definitely that the management was not willing to continue to operate in Southbridge under conditions which threaten the safety of the lives and property of its employees and their families.

operate a closed shop. "As soon as a meeting could be arranged representatives of the management met with representatives of the Union, the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, and two representatives of the government from Washington. At this meeting, the State board proposed a basis of settlement worked out in collaboration with the representatives from Washington, which proposal the management agreed to accept, but which the Union officials flatly rejected. The demands made by spokesmen for the strikers in substance required that the functions of selection, discipline and retention of employees be surrendered to a Union of which only a minority of the employees were members, and the Union refused to negotiate a settlement on any other basis. Your representatives have held to the position that when the management of a company is no longer in the hands of those responsible for its success, it is impossible to continue operating. As a result of these fundamentally inconsistent points of view, no agreement could be reached at this meeting or in subsequent negotiations.

Losses Foreseen

"During this entire period, disorder, violence and intimidation of employees who desired to work have continued with increasing seriousness. The management has not felt safe in accepting orders in view of the grave uncertainty as to its ability to fulfill its commitments. The labor situation has become demoralized completely and the efficiency of those employees who continued at their jobs has been impaired seriously by the threats and intimidations of the strikers. Naturally, doing business under these unsettled and disturbing circumstances results in substantial operating losses.

"Your directors have been reluctant to give up a business which has been and should have continued to be profitable to the stockholders and employees and beneficial to the community, and thus to precipitate a liquidation of the Company which necessarily must result in unemployment in Southbridge and the consequent hardships. Until the continued outside interference and violence destroyed beyond hope of restoration the friendly, co-operative relations which formerly existed between the Company and its employees, the directors believed as strongly as anyone that it was to the interest of all parties concerned to continue operations. The directors kept constantly in mind the interests of the community as long as any hope of a real adjustment existed. Unfortunately the combined efforts of employees who desired to work, the merchants, manufacturers, Selectmen and churches could not counteract the destructive influence of outside agitators.

Co-operation Destroyed

"But these particular facts do not tell the story adequately. No brief statement of a succession of events convey a complete picture of the situation. The general change is far more significant than any one demand or series of demands which have been the result of this outside agitation. Twice the Company has met demands only to have in a short period a recurrence of labor difficulties attended by increased violence. The atmosphere of friendly co-operation resulting in a smooth-working balanced organization has been destroyed and with this the Company, in our judgment, has lost its ability to maintain the quality of its products and to compete successfully. No withdrawal of specific demands will restore the old relationships.

"The directors have finally been forced to the conclusion that the situation is hopeless, that any adjustment of the present difficulties which might be reached would be temporary and that continuation of the business would result in the rapid dissipation of the assets of the Company and its forced liquidation. They believe that nothing is to be gained by refusing to face the facts, unpleasant as they may be, and that it is for your interest that the Company should be liquidated.

The directors have therefore instructed the calling of a special meeting of the stockholders, of which formal notice is enclosed, and have voted to recommend the liquidation and dissolution of the Company. In the absence of specific instructions to the contrary, proxies will be voted accordingly."

Dudley Strikers Okay State Board's Terms

Special Correspondence

DUDLEY, Dec. 24—The management of the Stevens Linen Co. was to decide today whether it would accept the terms of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for ending the walkout which began Nov. 27.

Striking union employees yesterday voted 281 to 51 to accept the State board's recommendations for a settlement.

Terms of the settlement include the return of all employees to their former positions and shifts as business warrants without discrimination; operation of a second

physical and mental wrecks."

Referring to the general strike, he said the employers had refused to meet the union because they felt the U. T. W. A. could not muster more than 10,000 in its strike. He said the major issue the union wished to discuss with the manufacturers was the stretchout, which, he added, had made slaves of persons who worked in the mills. He said that a man at the age of 40 is pushed aside for youth, which, under the stretchout, would be physically exhausted in 10 years. He told his listeners the machine load in some mills had been increased by as much as 800 to 900 percent in recent years.

"The employers," he explained, "got away with it because they kept us divided among ourselves."

Fair Reports Seen

He said the workers had no one but themselves to blame if the NRA collapsed, the recovery act having given them the right to organize, an opportunity, he added, they should seize.

Mr. Gorman said he was certain the reports to be made under the provisions of the President's truce would be impartial. Reports will be delivered before Feb. 1 by various bodies named by the President to consider the stretchout, wages and hours, and the financial structure of textile concerns.

In his promise of the spring strike, "the biggest the United States has ever seen," Mr. Gorman said formerly the employer had closed his gates without consulting his workers.

"Now," he added, "we are going to close those gates when we want."

Defends Squadrons

He indicated that even if the manufacturers did comply with the President's truce and eliminate discrimination, the strike might be called.

Mr. Gorman said there was nothing wrong about flying squadrons. He said they went "from place to place appealing to workers to join the fight for social justice," a principle, he held, which was fair.

He paid warm tribute to the President, asserting the nation's head had kept every promise he had made in seeking the truce.

Mr. Gorman, hitting again at strike breakers, said no man had a right to "scab."

"Manufacturers, of course, will support their 'loyal workers,'" he said. "They do this because to support them keeps them out of the union and thus weakens the union's strength."

Wages Cut

He said he was confident the wage and hour survey would show some employers had slashed the pay of skilled workers to the minimum permitted in the codes. He added he could show instances where silk weavers had been cut from \$45 to \$50 weekly to \$13, the code minimum.

He urged workers to "maintain and protect your union and your union will protect you." He scoffed at hints the union was tinged with communism or facism or "any other of a thousand isms." He flatly denied an article he said was printed in a New York evening newspaper last Friday describing the leaders of the Southbridge strike as radicals.

The meeting was preceded by a parade of 1,000 textile workers. A number from Southbridge were noted among the marchers.

AS OTHERS SEE IT

NO PICNIC

(Gardner News)

Francis J. Gorman, director of the Labor Day textile strike, is agitating another. He made a threatening speech at Putnam, Conn., Saturday night and another at Webster Sunday night. He promised, if the manufacturers do not do as union labor wants there would be a strike in the spring that would make the Labor Day refusal to work look like a picnic.

Mr. Gorman, if his promise comes true, will not be inconvenienced. It may prove a picnic for him but how about those who still get their living working in the mills and not as officials inciting them to quit working? Will such a strike be a picnic for them? Not on past experience in such affairs. The strike at Southbridge which brought the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. to the determination to close their plant and give up the business, is proving no picnic to the 600 and more men who preferred to work. It isn't for the 400 who decided to strike. That is one of the many similar cases where the un-American principle of rule by minority prevails.

Mr. Gorman agitates for something that will not have a bearing on his pocketbook. The international union pays him regularly, it is to be presumed. The violence that has marked all of the textile strikes, the tremendous economic waste, the loss of millions in wages and the lack of results in the strike last fall, point distinctly to the fact that there will be no picnic next spring if his threat prevails.

GORMAN PREDICTS STRIKE IN SPRING

Walkout to Come Unless Manufacturers Meet Terms of Truce

Special Correspondence

WEBSTER, Dec. 24—Promise of another general textile strike "when the birdies begin to chirp" in the spring unless a "vicious minority which controls the industry meets the terms of President Roosevelt's general strike truce by ceasing to discriminate was made here yesterday by Francis J. Gorman, national vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America, when he addressed 2,000 persons in the Municipal building.

Mr. Gorman's promise was met with cheers that echoed throughout the building.

The union leader made but slight reference to the strikes in Southbridge and Dudley, confining himself chiefly to the national effort to unionize labor.

Consults Officials

He said he planned to confer with officials of both locals and hoped the walkouts could be settled "very shortly," with the aid of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration and the National Textile Labor Relations Board.

Mr. Gorman pointed out, however the ultimate decision to return to work rested with the striking union members themselves, who must vote to determine their course. He said the national body could only advise.

The national vice-president, who was given a tremendous ovation when he was introduced, said the union did not approve strikes as a method of reaching its ends. He said the U. T. W. A. preferred to settle differences of opinion by conferences and attributed the cause of the general strike of last September, to the unwillingness of employers to sit around a conference table with the union to listen to its grievances.

Employers Flayed

He claimed manufacturers discriminated against union leaders in an effort to break up locals. He said the employers felt that if they penalized the leaders, the rank and file would say, "See what happened to them: why should we be union members?"

Mr. Gorman insisted the work week under the codes had been advanced from 55 hours to 66 hours and harshly criticized Massachusetts textile employers for paying mere lip service to the NRA while they reaped its benefits in increased profits, which they failed to share with labor.

He told his enthusiastic listeners "no person had a right to break a strike."

Stretchout Described

The stretchout was described by Mr. Gorman as the "monster that is sending our people to

STRIKE NOT CALLED OFF GIRL SAYS

Leader in Southbridge Denies Getting the Word to Quit

SOUTHBRIDGE, Dec. 25 (AP)—Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the United Textile Workers' local, which is on strike at the closed Hamilton Woolen mill, revealed today she never received the purported "order" from national headquarters of the U. T. W. at Providence, R. I., to return to work. "The strike is still on," she added.

CALL IT TRIAL-BALLOON

A publicity statement from the national headquarters Saturday said the Hamilton Local had been ordered to return to work at the mill on Monday.

Richard Lennihan, president of the mill, which closed after the third strike in three months, said that he has not been notified of any change in the situation. Other sources close to the mill ownership expressed the opinion that the reported order to return was probably a trial balloon to test sentiment.

George LaPlante, head of the Hamilton Employees Protective Association, the group of 700 which remained at work when about 400 walked out, announced today his organization would ask the Southbridge Merchants and Manufacturers Association to send a committee to the Hamilton Woolen Company stockholders' meeting at Boston, Jan. 15, to appeal against the liquidation recommended by the directors.

The closing of the mill in a dispute regarding "closed shop" threw one-fifth of the town's workers out of a job.

PEACE MOVE DENIED BY MILL STRIKERS

Not Ordered Back at Southbridge, Leader Says

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A PICNIC FOR MR. GORMAN, BUT—

Francis J. Gorman's cocky and threatening speeches at Putnam, Ct., Saturday night, and Webster yesterday are disheartening evidence that the deaths, the calling out of the militia, the widespread violence, the rioting, the huge economic waste, the loss of millions in wages, the bitter hatreds and the barren results of the last textile strike have had little effect on him.

He discussed a second and more serious walk-out. He did so as lightly as if all the workers were as far removed as he from want, and enjoyed the income of the international vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America. He said among other things at Putnam as reported in The Herald yesterday:

Unless some adjustment of the machine load problem is made before the birds sing, a bigger strike than ever before will be called. The last strike will be a picnic compared to the next one.

A picnic for Mr. Gorman, perhaps, whose main purpose was, and is to increase the strength and membership of the U. T. W., but he was not a victim of that warfare. His checks came through presumably on schedule time. But how about those whom he commanded in that disastrous conflict? How about the communities which his flying squadrons terrorized? A picnic for them? And would another strike be another picnic for the thousands who would be thrown out of work? Those who are thankful that they have jobs and can earn their living without the assistance of government funds—would it be a picnic for them if they were commandeered out at the singing of the birds in spring?

The great majority of textile workers who are employed now and are contented—would they be in a picnic mood when they left their looms and lined up for unemployment relief?

The men and women and children who thank God that they are fortunate enough to have work and can hold up their heads—does Mr. Gorman think that it would be a picnic for them? The birds would not be singing for them. Rather, those unfortunates of the rank and file would hear the howl of the wolf at the door. The laughter that has replaced the groans of the strike days would certainly not continue and drown out the singing of the birds during the violent course of Mr. Vice-President Gorman's picnic.

As an example of what has happened under leadership of the Gorman kind, consider the situation in the town of Southbridge, Mass.

The statement published this morning of the directors to the stockholders of the Hamilton Woolen Company there is sad reading. The directors "recommend the liquidation and dissolution of the company." The stockholders

are almost certain to adopt the views of their directors. That means the end of an industry on which for more than a century Southbridge has been largely dependent. The people, already convinced that the company was not simply "throwing a bluff," have been praying that this calamity might be averted. Apparently, as was said several days ago by the manager, that time is past; "it is too late." The fault is that of the union agitators and the employees who have listened to them.

Obviously the directors are under obligation to justify their action, not only to the stockholders but to the whole public. This their statement does. What they say squares with what competent observers have said. The general conclusion is: "The atmosphere of friendly co-operation resulting in a smooth-working balanced organization has been destroyed, and with this the company in our judgment has lost its ability to maintain the quality of its products and to compete successfully."

This conclusion is amply supported by a bill of particulars. The company has never imported strikebreakers. It has lived up to the letter and spirit of the code. There has been no issue as to wages or hours. The majority of the employees do not want the closed shop. A noisy minority demand it. The disorders have been due to the efforts of a striking minority to compel a working majority to quit their jobs and stay out of the mill. The management has agreed all along to bargain collectively in full compliance with 7A.

This situation has been brought about by outside U. T. W. agitators determined to force the mill to unionize. Three times in three months they have compelled the works to shut down and no industry can operate under such conditions as a going concern.

Twice, without notice of grievances, the union leaders called strikes. Once in violation of an oral agreement made in the presence of the state board of conciliation and arbitration, with no unsettled complaints pending, these leaders required their followers to quit. "Materials in process" have been destroyed. The strikers, although in a minority, managed to tie up the weave room and with its heart action stopped the industry was paralyzed.

Seldom in Massachusetts has the malign influence of outside agitators been more effectively demonstrated. No company can carry on when "the function of selection, discipline and retention of employees" is "surrendered to a union of which only a minority of the employees" are members. The directors consider the "situation hopeless." What other conclusion is possible?

A picnic a la Gorman seems to have arrived for the Southbridge workers.

SEEKS TO AVERT CLOSING OF MILL

Gorman to Ask Textile Labor Board's Aid in Southbridge Case

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (AP)—Francis J. Gorman, organization director of the United Textile Workers, planned to ask the National Textile Labor board today to use its influence to avert permanent closing of the Hamilton Woolen Co. plant at Southbridge, Mass.

Officials of the company recently decided to liquidate it because of a strike which had been in effect for several weeks.

"Of course," Gorman said, "there is nothing the board can do other than to use its good offices. We hope, however, the board may persuade the company not to take any drastic action."

He said the union also was negotiating with the Massachusetts Board of Compliance and Arbitration, and said "we are hopeful the situation may be cleared up in a few days."

Gorman Pleading to Keep Hamilton Mills

Washington, Dec. 27 (A.P.)—Francis J. Gorman, organization director of the United Textile Workers, planned to ask the National Textile Labor Board today to use its influence to avert permanent closing of the Hamilton Woolen Company plant at Southbridge, Mass. Officials of the Hamilton Company recently decided to liquidate the concern as a result of a strike which had been in effect for several weeks.

"Of course," Gorman said, "there is nothing the board can do other than to use its good offices. We hope, however, that the board may persuade the company not to take any drastic action."

Gorman said the union also is negotiating with the Massachusetts State Board of Compliance and Arbitration, and said "we are hopeful that the situation may be cleared up within a few days."

DUDLEY STRIKE ENDS AS UNION RESUMES JOBS

Management to Begin Full Operation on Monday With Night Shift

NO CHANGE IN TOWN Labor Denies Statement By Board Walkout Is Ended at Hamilton

Although the strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co. remained at an impasse today, the management of the Stevens linen mill in Dudley was making preparations to swing into full operation with a night shift next Monday.

The Dudley walkout was ended officially today when some of the strikers returned to their jobs as a result of the settlement effected prior to the holiday by the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The Dudley management estimated that 75 percent of the 600 persons on the company payroll prior to the strike, called Nov. 27, were working today.

To Add Others

Others will be added as rapidly as possible, the mill owners said. Plans now are being completed to alter the company schedule so the night shift can be started next Monday in accordance with the agreement reached by union strikers, mill heads and the State board.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America, denied the authenticity of the State board's understanding the strike here had been cancelled.

Edward Fisher, chairman of the board, told newspaper men Monday he understood the Hamilton local had followed the board's suggestion the walkout be called off to enable the body to make fresh attempts to keep the mill in Southbridge. He admitted however, he had not been notified officially of any such action.

Meeting Called

Miss Gauthier said the strike had not been terminated and indicated she had made no plans to call a meeting of union members to comply with the State board's request by voting to end the walkout. A union meeting was scheduled to be held at 3 p. m. today in Pilsudski hall but Miss Gauthier said no action on the State board's suggestion was contemplated. By provision of the union constitution, a strike cannot be dropped except by vote of the members.

Baskets were given yesterday to needy union members, Miss Gauthier reported.

Press reports from Providence, R. I., said Francis J. Gorman, vice-president of the U. T. W. A., left today for Washington to confer with members of the National Textile Labor Relations Board concerning the Hamilton strike. He said that after the conference he would go to Southbridge to head negotiations for a settlement through the office of the State board.

Expresses Hope

Mr. Gorman said he was hopeful "something can be done in a few days to clear up the situation."

After negotiations have been completed, he added, union workers will ballot on their acceptance.

George Laplante, head of the Hamilton Protective association, said today the 600 members of the organization were considering the advisability of asking the Manufacturers and Merchants association to send a delegation of business men to the stockholders meeting in the Chamber of Commerce building, Boston, Tuesday, Jan. 15, to attempt to retain the mill for Southbridge.

Date for Stockholders' Vote to be Set Today; Union Leaders Confer

Jean Gauthier Discusses With Sylvia Request To Call Off Strike

AGENT WILL RETURN

Chumbley Authorized By Washington to Help Terminate Strike

Interest in the Hamilton Woolen Co. strike was centered today on two widely divergent points. In Boston, the directors of the firm were fixing a date when stockholders would ballot on liquidation. In Pawtucket, R. I., Miss Jean Gauthier, president of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America, pre-

sumably was in conference with Joseph Sylvia, New England organizer, and other U. T. W. A. officials, concerning the telegram sent her yesterday by the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. The telegram urged immediate cancellation of the strike so new peace overtures could be made.

Miss Gauthier had left for Pawtucket yesterday before the State board's telegram was sent but was acquainted later with its contents.

She had not returned to Southbridge this afternoon and could not be reached in Pawtucket for any comment on the State board's plea.

Asks Strike Be Called Off

The telegram follows:

"The board recommends and urges the immediate calling off of the strike now in progress at the Hamilton Woolen Mills. The situation calls for a major, not minor

operation. If and when recommendation is accepted, the board will immediately make further recommendations to the company and employees, giving a fair and reasonable basis for adjustment of this controversy, which will afford ample protection to the rights and privileges of all parties concerned."

Directors of the company, who were holding their meeting in the Second National bank building, Boston, said they did not expect to fix a date for the stockholders' session until late afternoon.

Chumbley to Stay

One of the overnight developments in the situation was the order from Col. Frank P. Douglass, a member of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, that John Chumbley, a representative of the Federal body, "stand by" to assist in prompt termination of the strike.

The Board of Selectmen yesterday wired the textile board asking that Mr. Chumbley be kept here. The board said it believed Mr. Chumbley's plan for settling the strike offered a means of retaining the Hamilton Woolen Co.

for Southbridge.

Col. Douglass's telegram to the board was as follows:

"We appreciate your co-operation regarding Hamilton Woolen Co. strike situation and are instructing our Mr. Chumbley to stand by to be of any possible assistance in prompt termination of strike."

Goes to Providence

Mr. Chumbley had left Southbridge yesterday when the Selectmen sent the wire asking his retention. He went to Providence, R. I., but had not returned this afternoon.

The situation here remained unchanged today although a faint flicker of hope was aroused by the State board's apparent determination to do everything within its power to save the industry for the community.

Albert Lavalley of Lovely st., charged with assault and battery on Lionel Dupre of 538 Main st. Dec. 6, was granted a continuance to Monday when he appeared in District court today.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1934

FRANCIS GORMAN'S VISIT

The visit of Francis J. Gorman, first vice-president of the U. T. W. A., to Webster Sunday was apparently a mission of peace. Acting on his advice the strikers at the Stevens mill in Dudley voted to accept the settlement terms proposed by the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration—terms very similar to those agreed to several weeks ago by the Hamilton management but rejected for the Southbridge strikers by Messrs. Sylvia and Dickens.

Mr. Gorman also seemed anxious to secure peace in Southbridge, so that the members of the union might not lose their chance of employment here. It may only be repeated that everyone thinks it a pity reasonable men did not appear to give counsel to the strikers when the State board was offering such an excellent solution.

We suspect John Chumbley has been advising Mr. Gorman to get these strikes settled, but Mr. Chumbley could not have approved the threat of another general strike "when the birdies begin to sing." That kind of talk will not help the Southbridge workers regain their employment. It ought to send chills down the spines of those who have had a chance to observe the wreck and ruin a strike can cause the workers, if not their leaders.

Mr. Gorman opened his Sunday address with an emphatic denial of the story published in a New York paper that the Southbridge strike was managed by Communists. We are glad to be able to agree with him on this point. However grave our troubles, we have no menace of Communism here.

TIME FOR ACTION

EDITORIAL

The paramount problem in Southbridge today is obvious: how to re-open the Hamilton mill and restore employment to the workers.

If that problem can be solved, another awaits: how to establish such happy relations between management and employees that further trouble would be improbable.

There is no profit now in looking for someone to blame. The situation calls for action—prompt, resolute, and generous.

Southbridge appears stunned by the recent action of the directors announcing what seems to be an irrevocable purpose to liquidate, and while it is entirely natural to feel momentarily stunned, it is not a good thing to remain stunned.

In an admirable editorial reprinted in full on page four of this issue, the Boston Transcript yesterday pointed the way to Southbridge. In his concluding paragraph the Transcript editor wrote:

Reading between the lines of the statement it would seem that the directors have not finally closed the door against continued operation of the mill. They have apparently given the town of Southbridge and the wage earners who want work instead of bickering and violence an opportunity to bring about a change in conditions and the resumption of operations.

Until we do something to bring about a "change in conditions" that might tend to improve the prospects and restore confidence we are overlooking our plain duty to our Town and citizens.

The News believes steadfastly that a good purpose may be served by giving a demonstration of confidence in the management of Richard Lennihan, and encouraging him and his directors to try again, with freshly augmented funds of good will and patience and tolerance.

It is useless to discuss the past and its mistakes. All of us have learned a great deal from those mistakes—employees, management, and the community—but after we have stored away the good grain of experience we should discard the chaff and the straw.

While we should be swift in helpful action we should be slow in judging acts we do not yet fully understand. A little time will clear up many things.

The News does not believe the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. have acted wantonly, and it has faith that their final disposition of the case will be made with sympathy for the workers and consideration for the welfare of Southbridge. We do not know what they will do, and we doubt whether they will attempt a final decision until after their stockholders meet.

Again we say: Do not judge these men. Encourage them to take a more hopeful view. Above all, let no one forget what the management has achieved in the past six years, and how difficult it would be to find another that could do as well.

SOUTHBRIDGE—A LABOR TRAGEDY

(Boston News Bureau)

As the 15,000 townspeople have become acutely aware, tragedy is being enacted at Southbridge, Mass. Hamilton Woolen Co., one of the two important industries of the Town, and normally accounting for a quarter to a third of the total industrial payroll, is being forced to abandon operations, permanently, and possibly to liquidate, after an existence of 105 years. Earnings of nearly all Southbridge smaller businesses will suffer, property values will decline, welfare costs will rise, suffering will inevitably increase.

Were this an isolated case of industrial controversy, incapable of settlement, it might escape more than passing notice. Unfortunately, however, it is a scene which may be repeated at a score of textile towns in the center of the State and in the shoe-manufacturing district along the Merrimack. More than the public has any idea, manufacturers of Massachusetts are seriously considering liquidation, or removal to centers where labor is more tractable and where wages and other costs are lower.

Hamilton's difficulties spring in largest measures from the unionization movement started by Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act, and strengthened by the general textile strike of last fall. Twice since the general tie-up a newly formed union at the Hamilton has effected walk-outs rendering prompt deliveries of goods impossible. Violence has been rife. Regretfully the management has now concluded it cannot operate under such conditions, and it has decided to abandon its Southbridge plant.

Under energetic direction of United Textile Workers organizers, a minority of the workers, perhaps 450 out of 1,100, were induced last summer to form a local unit of the U. T. W. Leaders who were chosen are all in their very early twenties. They have, however, the full recognition of the U. T. W.

The young union leaders—and they have had ample backing from headquarters—have shown a deplorable lack of responsibility. Just after termination of the general strike, a second walkout was ordered, but was settled with the union promise that grievances would be submitted to the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation before any further strike would be ordered. No such grievances were submitted, however, and yet in November, without warning to the management, a third strike was called. It will be the last blow the Hamilton plant, for operations have been permanently abandoned.

It is clear that the minority group does not have the support of most Southbridge citizens. There has apparently been little Communist influence exercised, the Powers Hapgood type of agent organizers have been present, seeking to stir up trouble. For the most part the union membership has been drawn from the French and Polish workers, some of them of little education and unable to speak English, as was shown at Friday's meeting in the Town hall.

The State conciliation board has announced it still will seek to effect a settlement, but it has made five trips to Southbridge and has had no success. The decision of the Hamilton officials is more than a hollow threat. Union labor has won its victory.

The War on Capital

To the New York Herald Tribune:

The closing of the Hamilton Woolen Mills of Southbridge, Mass., is the result of the United States government being handed over to the labor unions. Time and again in these deals whereby labor union leaders are permitted by the arbitration board to impose their own demands on employers it has been a case of heads I win tails you lose.

The strangling of utilities is next on the list. Of course we know that some of these have not done right, especially when they have been manipulated by politicians, but why kill all off for the sins of a few? Here in New Jersey we have a utility that is furnishing heat, light and power at low cost, and yet for years it has been the butt for political demagogues to harass it. It pays enormous taxes.

A NON-STOCKHOLDER.

Jersey City, N. J., Dec. 22, 1934.

Letter To Hamilton
Woolen Co. StockholdersSouthbridge, Mass.,
December 22, 1934.

To the Stockholders of

Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc.:

In order that you may fully understand the situation and particularly the recommendations of your directors, the following statement is made.

You are already familiar with the success of your company under its present management, as shown by its continuous operation and its dividend record throughout the depression. During this period, until quite recently, its relations with its employees have been cordial, and there has been remarkably little labor trouble or unrest.

Although the management has never opposed Unions, the employees have not previously been unionized. When the general textile strike was called on September 4 of this year, the employees did not respond and the mill continued for a time unaffected. Within a few days, however, strikers and labor agitators from other communities came to Southbridge in substantial numbers and serious trouble began. The violence was such that your officers considered it necessary to close the mill for the personal safety of the employees and the protection of their homes and the Company's property.

A detailed account of the following weeks would serve only to show a constantly widening breach between the management and a considerable number of the employees, accompanied by frequent outbreaks of violence in which police protection has been necessary. Outside organizers have established a Labor Union and have persuaded or coerced many of the employees into becoming members. The demands made by this Union and the position the management has taken and its repeated efforts toward conciliation are briefly summarized below.

The general strike lasted approximately three weeks. During this period, it was impractical to attempt to reopen the mill. On September 22, President Roosevelt issued a statement urging all textile workers to return to their jobs and all employers to take them back without discrimination. In response to this appeal, the Hamilton mill reopened September 24.

The resumption of operations had to be gradual. The closing had interrupted the process of working material through the mill and also, while the mill was closed, new orders could not be taken. The management resumed operation in good faith and offered reemployment to the employees as rapidly as operating conditions permitted, without partiality and without discrimination against Union members or others. Two days later, without allowing time for a complete resumption of operations and the reemployment of a complete force of operatives, without notice to the management that any grievances existed which had not been disposed of, and without warning, the Union leaders, claiming that discrimination was being shown in the reemployment of workers, called another strike for the following day, September 27. Increased violence resulted, making it necessary for the state police to assist local authorities in protecting the personal safety of employees who desired to work and the mill.

The day following this strike, the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration came to Southbridge and conferred with the management and Union representatives. At this meeting, an oral agreement was made under which procedure was established for the arbitration of all grievances, the management agreed to reemploy, wherever possible, all those who were on the payroll at the time of the original closing, and the Union leaders agreed not to call another strike without first submitting for arbitration any matter in dispute to the state board. In accordance with

this agreement, the mill again re-employed on the same jobs, as far as work permitted, all those who had been employed at the time of the original closing. New orders were taken at prices which represented no profit to the mill in order that the available work might be further increased.

In violation of their agreement, the Union on November 14 again called a strike, although no unsettled complaint was pending with the management and no case had been referred to the state board. Some of the employees left their work under circumstances which resulted in the destruction of materials in process. Heavier losses were avoided only by quick action on the part of loyal employees. Violence became increasingly serious, in spite of the patient attendance of the state police. The mill continued its efforts to carry on in the face of this strike and the number of employees steadily increased until approximately two-thirds of the normal number of employees were working. The strike, however, resulted in tying up the weave room, one of the essential departments of the mill. In this manner a minority of the employees were able to paralyze the mill. The directors were unwilling to import professional strike breakers.

The management issued a statement on November 19 to the employees of the Company and the people of the community setting forth the essential facts, calling attention to the serious danger that a continuation of existing conditions would result in destruction of the business and stating definitely that the management was "not willing to continue to operate in Southbridge under conditions which threaten the safety of the lives and property of its employees and their families" and that it would not attempt to operate a closed shop.

As soon as a meeting could be arranged, representatives of the management met with representatives of the Union, the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, and two representatives of the government from Washington. At this meeting, the state board proposed a basis of settlement worked out in collaboration with the representatives from Washington, which proposal the management agreed to accept, but which the Union officials flatly rejected. The demands made by spokesmen for the strikers in substance required that the functions of selection, discipline and retention of employees be surrendered to a Union of which only a minority of the employees were members, and the Union refused to negotiate a settlement on any other basis. Your representatives have held to the position that when the management of a company is no longer in the hands of those responsible for its success, it is impossible to continue operating. As a result of these fundamentally inconsistent points of view, no agreement could be reached at this meeting or in subsequent negotiations.

During this entire period, disorder, violence and intimidation of employees who desired to work have continued with increasing seriousness. The management has not felt safe in accepting orders in view of the grave uncertainty as to its ability to fulfill its commitments. The labor situation has become completely demoralized and the efficiency of those employees who continued at their jobs has been seriously impaired by the threats and intimidations of the strikers. Naturally, doing business under these unsettled and disturbing circumstances results in substantial operating losses.

Your directors have been reluctant to give up a business which has been and should have continued to be profitable to the stockholders and employees and beneficial to the community, and thus to precipitate a liquidation of the Company which must necessarily result in unemployment in Southbridge and the consequent hardships. Until the continued out-

side interference and violence destroyed beyond hope of restoration the friendly, co-operative relations which formerly existed between the company and its employees, the directors believed as strongly as anyone that it was to the interest of all parties concerned to continue operations. The directors kept constantly in mind the interests of the community as long as any hope of a real adjustment existed. Unfortunately the combined efforts of employees who desired to work, the merchants, manufacturers, selectmen and churches could not counteract the destructive influence of outside agitators.

But these particular facts do not adequately tell the story. No brief statement of a succession of events can convey a complete picture of the situation. The general change is far more significant than any one demand or series of demands which have been the result of this outside agitation. Twice the company has met demands only to have in a short period a recurrence of labor difficulties attended by increased violence. The atmosphere of friendly cooperation resulting in a smooth-working balanced organization has been destroyed and with this the company, in our judgment, has lost its ability to maintain the quality of its products and to compete successfully. No withdrawal of specific demands will restore the old relationships.

The directors have finally been forced to the conclusion that the situation is hopeless, that any adjustment of the present difficulties which might be reached would be temporary and that continuation of the business would result in the rapid dissipation of the assets of the company and its forced liquidation. They believe that nothing is to be gained by refusing to face the facts, unpleasant as they may be, and that it is for your interest that the company should be liquidated.

The directors have therefore instructed the calling of a special meeting of the stockholders, of which formal notice is enclosed, and have voted to recommend the liquidation and dissolution of the company. In the absence of specific instructions to the contrary, proxies will be voted accordingly.

Yours very truly,
Board of Directors,
Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING NEXT MONDAY

The selectmen have called a special town meeting for next Monday night at 7.30 o'clock to act on two articles:

First to see if the town will authorize the transfer of available balances in 1934 accounts to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration account to be used in 1935.

Second: To see if the town will vote to amend the by-laws of the town to provide against non-residents or others, holding meetings within the town, without permission and otherwise interfering with citizens of the town in the performance of their duties, while employed by the various industries of the town.

SOUTHBRIDGE WILL HOLD MEETING ON STRIKE

SOUTHBRIDGE, Dec. 29 — The Merchants and Manufacturers Association will meet Monday to consider appointing a committee of the town's most influential citizens to plead with the stockholders of the Hamilton Woolen Company to vote against liquidating its business at a stockholders' meeting in Boston Jan. 15.

A special town meeting will be held Monday to consider ways of keeping out labor agitators and to protect non-strikers against future disorders. George LaPlante, head of the Workers' Protective Association, has urged favorable action on the article in the warrant changing the town by-laws to prevent agitators from holding meetings within the town limits or interfering with residents at work.

Chicago Tribune Discusses Hamilton Mills Strike Lays Trouble At Door of Agitators Scathing Words Used To Describe Communists

We herewith publish an editorial us by one of our subscribers in that from the Chicago Tribune, sent to city.

THREE STRIKES AND OUT

Since last summer three strikes have been called at the mill of the Hamilton Woolen Company in Southbridge, Mass. The directors of the company regard the outlook as hopeless and have voted in favor of liquidating the business. A special meeting of the stockholders for this purpose has been called.

Nearly 700 employes remained at their looms to the end. They were and are willing to work. They do not want to go on relief, but many of them will have to in consequence of the misguided activities of a minority.

Here is as clear an example as the country has had of the destructive influence of communist leadership in American industrial relations. The communists don't care how many factories they close and how many men and women are thrown out of work. Indeed, the more factories they close the better they are pleased, because they think that men and women out of work are the more readily recruited into mobs.

The agitators will pretend, of course, that the dismantling of the mill was part of a great capitalist plot to grind labor into the dust. It is difficult to believe that many out of work will be taken in by this kind of nonsense. The plain truth is that the action of the agitators caused the factory to operate at a loss, and only because of the losses is it being closed. The dissolution of the business will save something from the wreckage for the investors, but nothing will be left for the men and women who want to work. They are the principal victims of the communist agitation which was carried on in their name. They have been betrayed, and deliberately betrayed.

Dec. 22, 1934.

TO BAR RADICALS IN SOUTHBRIDGE

Rally Votes 3 to 1 for Steps
To Keep Outside Agita-
tors Out

[Special Dispatch to The Herald]

SOUTHBRIDGE, Dec. 31—By a vote of more than three to one tonight, more than 700 citizens of Southbridge insisted on action to prevent outsiders from holding meetings or otherwise interfering with the town's industries. As a result of labor troubles, the local plant of the Hamilton Woolen Company has been closed and more than 1000 thrown out of work.

O. L. LaPierre, formerly sewer commissioner, moved to table the original motion indefinitely, but among the hisses, boos and catcalls of strikers, V. P. Tetreault, a member of the board of selectmen, challenged the disgruntled workers and moved that the moderator should appoint a committee of five to investigate the question of barring outside agitators. They will report to the annual town meeting.

Ira Mosher, general manager of the American Optical Company, largest industry in the town, told the voters to act at once in support of the original motion, declaring that it was up to them whether they were to have peace and protection or labor troubles and disorders. David E. Hobson, an officer of the Southbridge Finishing Company, named union organizers who have visited Southbridge, blamed them for the closing of the Hamilton mills and declared they were a menace to the town.

The voters were required to stand while the vote was taken. A total of 331 voted against LaPierre's amendment to have the matter tabled, and only 100 supported it.

A MOVE FOR PEACE

One thing to be clearly understood about the new by-law adopted by a large majority at the Town meeting Monday night is that it was initiated by working people and cannot in any way impair the honest rights of anyone, whether a member of a union or not.

The by-law follows the line of others in force in other communities in Massachusetts, which have passed the tests of impartial legal scrutiny. It cannot be made to interfere with the rights of free speech and peaceable assembly.

In effect, the new by-law aims to prevent riotous disturbances, and no one can claim a right to disturb and destroy. If it tends to defeat the counsels of those who urge violence in times of labor trouble, no good citizen can object.

One of the greatest calamities that ever befell Southbridge was the visit of the flying squadrons on Sept. 5 and 6 that closed a mill where all the employes were working in harmony with each other and the management. Such invaders may in the future be driven out before they accomplish harm, because it is now contrary to law in Southbridge to conduct such demonstrations.

THE NEWS is glad the issue was settled Monday night, instead of being allowed to drift along at the mercy of politics. Ira Mosher made another of his able contributions to the welfare of all his townsmen when he rose in the meeting and asked that the question be squarely faced and disposed of on the spot. It is probable he attended the meeting without intending to take part, but it is fortunate he was there with the right note of leadership.

This question of the industrial security of Southbridge is too big and too serious in the lives of everybody in the Town to be regarded as a subject for political debate, and THE NEWS believes it is the part of every good citizen to frown upon anyone who tries to seek advantage for himself by misrepresenting the purpose that has been accomplished.

Southbridge has settled wisely and moderately an issue of the highest importance, in a way to which no person in his senses can object.

Copy of New By-Law Sent to State House; Approval is Expected

Law Requires Permission For Congregating And Parading in Town

BARS OBSCENE TALK

Motion Passed by Large Majority in Special Town Meeting

Chairman Demers of the Selectmen stated today that a copy of the new by-law has been sent to the attorney-general's office in the State House for approval. A similar by-law is now in force in Natick and was used as a precedent in this case, in the belief that approval having once been given such a law, it cannot well be objected to at this time.

"No person shall use indecent language . . . march or congregate in any public way or public place without the written permission of the Selectmen." Slightly abbreviated that is the by-law adopted at a special Town meeting in Town hall Monday night by a majority of 331 to 100. Another motion was passed unanimously which transferred to the account of the local Emergency Relief Administration \$3,400 with which to meet the demands resulting from the closing down of the Hamilton Woolen Co. Dec. 11.

About 700 persons attended the meeting, many of whom were not resident voters. Hamilton strikers came early and filled the front seats in the center of the hall. There was no evident tension at the outset, but as the meeting progressed the strikers were disposed to boo those to whom they were opposed, although the booing came from relatively few of them.

It was apparent from the start that a large majority at the meeting favored the action proposed by the members of the Hamilton Protective association.

Whip of Slavery

Onesiphore L. Lapierre, a former Town Sewer commissioner, was the only person who spoke in opposition to the motion. He warned workers present that, if adopted, the proposed by-law would "crack the whip of slavery over your heads."

A short talk by David E. Hobson in which he indirectly compared out-of-town labor organizers with an epidemic of smallpox and rattlesnakes was loudly applauded. "If anybody is better off tonight than he was on Labor Day because the organizers came to Southbridge, I want him to come up here and say so," Mr. Hobson declared.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p. m. by Moderator Wilfred J. Lamoureux. Town Clerk Albert O. Boyer read the warrant, the first article of which sought permission from the voters to transfer funds from accounts with unexpended balances to the ERA budget. The second read as follows:

Article 2

"To see if the Town will vote to amend the By-Laws of the Town to provide against non-residents or others, in holding meetings within the Town without permission and otherwise interfering with citizens of the Town in the

performance of their duties, while employed by the various industries in the Town, or act anything thereon."

The moderator then read a report by the Town Finance committee, which had convened just prior to the meeting, recommending transfer of funds to the ERA account as follows: \$1,468.21 from the insurance account, \$494.85 from the interest account, \$80.14 from the election and registration account, \$292.95 from the street lighting account, \$600 from the soldiers' relief account, \$165.50 from the forest fire account, \$61.57 from the ambulance account, \$24 from the Town clock account, \$57.63 from the street oiling account, \$55.15 from the sidewalk repair account, and \$100 from the law account.

Report is Accepted

A motion was made and passed without a vote of dissent that the report be accepted.

George Laplante, president of the Hamilton Protective association, comprising those workers who remained at their jobs when the last strike was called at the mill Nov. 14, opened discussion on Article 2 by offering a substitute motion providing that the by-laws be amended so that Section 10 of Article 8 should read:

"No person shall use any indecent, profane or insulting language in any public place in the Town, or near any dwelling house or other building therein, and no person or persons shall play or perform on any musical instrument, sing, parade, march or congregate in any public way or public place without the written permission of the Selectmen. But this shall not apply to funeral processions, authorized by law."

Moves Postponement

Mr. Lapierre then moved that Article 2 be laid on the table indefinitely. The motion was seconded.

With the preface that, something must be done to promote the welfare of Southbridge workers, Selectman Valmore P. Tetreault made another substitute motion designed to postpone action until a later Town meeting when a committee of five, appointed by the moderator, would present an amendment to the by-laws preventing non-residents and others from holding meetings without permission. The motion was as follows:

"Voted that the moderator appoint a committee of five voters to draw up and present at a future Town meeting, an amendment to the by-laws of the Town, to provide against non-residents holding meetings within the Town without permission and otherwise interfering with citizens of the Town in the performance of their duties while employed by the various industries in the Town."

Promotes Citizenship

Opposed to postponement of action on Mr. Laplante's motion, Ira Mosher advised that it be put to a vote without delay. "Vote for it or against it, but vote," he urged. "If it is voted down it will mean persons may cuss and swear on the streets of Southbridge. The motion promotes good citizenship. It promotes peace and quiet."

Arthur Howarth, assistant dyer at the closed Hamilton mill, supported Mr. Mosher's contention the motion should be voted upon at once by reminding fellow workers that the stockholders are to meet Jan. 15, and if this law were passed now they might be given some encouragement to reopen the mill. "This is our last chance to save the Hamilton for Southbridge," he said.

Motion is Withdrawn

Sensing a confusion in the minds of many as to whether the substitute motions offered by Messrs. Laplante and Tetreault

would deprive persons of the right to hold meetings in halls or houses, William Earls requested that the moderator reread both motions. The request was granted.

Mr. Tetreault withdrew his motion in the face of opposition shown by applause for the talks by Mr. Mosher and Mrs. Howarth.

Mr. Laplante's motion was characterized by Mr. Lapierre as one designed to "crack the whip of slavery over the heads of working people." To vote for it, he said, would be to surrender the rights and privileges of collective bargaining guaranteed to workers by Section 7a of the National Recovery Act. He was applauded by the group of strikers in the center of the auditorium.

Smallpox, Snakes

Mr. Hobson was the next speaker. "Whose town is this?" he

asked. "Does it belong to Mr. Sylvia and Mr. Dickens or is it ours? If an epidemic of smallpox spread in Southbridge would we stand idle and do nothing to stop it? If a flock of rattlesnakes were to come to town would we do nothing about it? Of course we would. Now, what are we going to do to stop out-of-town agitators from coming in here and disturbing us?"

"If anybody is better off tonight than he was on Labor Day because the organizers came to Southbridge, I want him to come up here and say so," Mr. Hobson challenged.

After Mr. Lapierre made another talk in praise of the NRA and Section 7a, and criticized the proposed amendment to the by-laws, a vote was taken on his motion that Article 2 be tabled indefinitely.

The moderator appointed five tellers to count the votes. The result was 100 for the motion, 331 opposed.

Because such a large majority was shown to favor the original substitute motion, offered by Mr. Laplante, the vote on it was by a show of hands, rather than by standing as in the previous ballot. The voters again showed an overwhelming sentiment for the motion, and it was passed by a similar majority.

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS., THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1935

Union Members, Expressing High Regard for Lennihan, Seek Way to Re-Open Mill

Despite Smokeless Chimneys Hope Still Remains That Hamilton Will Start Again; Quiet Efforts Being Made to Revive Directors' Will to Open

Hope still remains in Southbridge that beneath the smokeless chimneys of the Hamilton Woolen Co. there may yet be found a few embers that may be rekindled so the mill may start again. In spite of the unbroken silence on the part of the management, which indicates there is no change in the plan to go on with liquidation, quiet efforts are being made in various quarters to revive the will to carry on.

An informal meeting of union loom-fixers was held in the home of one of the members Sunday afternoon to discuss possible ways of ending the trouble. It was attended by nearly all the loom-fixers in the union, and by President Jean Gauthier of the Hamilton local and Harold Doust of Farnumsville.

Half or more of the loom-fixers, who are skilled and sober operatives—men over 40 who in many cases own their homes—have found employment in other places. They wish to continue to live in Southbridge, and would rather work in the Hamilton mill than elsewhere if conditions could be adjusted.

There was a disposition to send a committee to Richard Lennihan to ask him to re-open the mill on a basis fair to all, but Mr. Lennihan is absent for a few days' rest in the South. Miss Gauthier also pointed again to the hope that John Chumbley, mediator from Washington, might accomplish something before the end of this week.

Personal regard for Richard Lennihan was freely expressed at the meeting, coupled with statements that the trouble could be blamed on one or two subordinates who had disregarded Mr. Lennihan's instructions to practice no discrimination in re-hiring workers after the earlier strikes.

One loom-fixer, who was helped out of a tight situation in a material way by Mr. Lennihan when building a home, said: "I'd lay down my life for Richard Lennihan, because of the things he's done for me, but I wouldn't want to go back to work unless I knew there would be no discrimination."

"Yes, Lennihan is all right," others said.

The informal meeting resulted in no specific action, except for the development of the sentiment that the loom-fixers would like Mr. Lennihan to open the mill and see to it personally that everyone eligible to re-employment should be taken care of fairly. There was no trace of hostility.

It is reported today other members of the union have this week been asking Miss Gauthier if she could do something to improve the situation, and that she has replied she knows of nothing further to do at present.

Must Thousands Leave Southbridge?

The Hamilton Mills Strike So Decrees Deepest Sympathy for Those Afflicted

The fear that has taken possession of the people of Southbridge because of the determination of the Hamilton Woolen Co. to cease operations and take its departure from the scene where for more than 100 years it has stood as a pillar in the support of the community structure, is painfully manifest in the faces of the people.

It is especially evident among the 95 per cent of the mill hands who are anxious to go on with the work that they have been so long used to and to which they returned each day for many years with nothing but feelings of contentment and security.

Despite the fact that such an overwhelming number of hands are eager to resume the work which they never wished to leave, and who are now more than ever anxiously waiting, the strike by the remaining few has not been called off.

While the leaders in the community are trying to form some plan to avert the calamity that impends, they are laboring under the severest handicap by the continuation of the strike. If that stumbling block could only be removed they would take heart, even in the face of the gravest crisis the town has ever been called upon to face, and not give up until the last irrevocable moment. That

moment, without question comes on January 15 when the company stockholders meet to take final action.

In the meantime, what, may one ask, is the state board of Conciliation and Arbitration doing? When the memorable hearing in the Southbridge town hall granted by that board was closing, Chairman Fisher of that board promised to make a report, assumed by those present to be a vital report, in two or three days. "Fixing" the blame for the strike was a definite promise made by the chairman, but succeeding events have greatly lessened the importance of "fixing blame." The question which now touches the vital point is what can the board do to save the industry for Southbridge and the state of Massachusetts?

What, may it be asked, can the board do to take the weight from hundreds of weary hearts in the breasts of the mill workers and the anxiety from the minds of the whole people of Southbridge and adjoining towns? Must it be, then, that those who have passed their lives here, who are attached to the place by every endearment of scene, family, habits and sweetest memories, are to be in their advancing age compelled to set out as wanderers, and never to regain the peace and spiritual comfort of home.

Producer Raises Prices Because of Hamilton Shutdown

The manner in which the discontinued operations in the Hamilton Woolen Co. because of labor trouble, played havoc with the spring plans of some clothing manufacturers was shown when a large producer Monday considered advising customers of an advance of 50 cents per garment on the worsted suit line in which Hamilton goods were listed exclusively, although the concern said it has paid 25 cents per yard more for replace-

ment yardage, or \$1.10 more per two-pants suit.

It was the first time in years that the manufacturer confined his worsted piece goods selection to one mill, the Hamilton. The firm is said to have replaced these goods from the Metcalf and Herbert Lawton mills, that the Hamilton order amounted to 900 pieces and that 8,500 worsted suits had been booked.

(New York Daily News Record)

BISHOP CASSIDY HITS BLINDNESS OF UNIONS

Tells Diocese That Fall River Faces Critical Situation

Jan 4, 35 In 1935 Southbridge

(Special to The Journal of Commerce)

Fall River, Jan. 3.—The Most Rev. James E. Cassidy, Bishop of the Fall River diocese, in a New Year's message to the people of the diocese, dwelt at length on the textile situation here and warned labor leaders to "beware lest you scuttle your own ship; beware lest in trying to sink the captain you sink likewise the crew; beware lest you kill the goose that lays the golden egg."

Bishop Cassidy's message in part follows:

"To those who live or work or depend for sustenance on this episcopal city, and this may well be said of other cities and towns in diocese, a very critical condition is to be faced during 1935.

"Living largely by the textile industry, we have seen our livelihood more and more seriously threatened and the end is not yet. Factory after factory we have seen collapse and fortune after fortune disappear now in Fall River, now in Taunton, now in New Bedford.

City Cruelly Visited

"Here in Fall River we had thought ourselves cruelly visited when on a February night conflagrations swept a large section of our city. But if we were to set down along side the ruins of this fire the destroyed and dismantled mills—not swept by fire, but blasted by business depression—the fire ruins and all that they entailed would be but a Fourth of July bonfire compared with the desolation wrought by industrial collapse. And the worst has been saved for the last—or is it the Printing Co's plant, depriving of daily sustenance, employees and dependents together, perhaps at a minimum ten thousand people.

"And the sad part of it is that there are many amongst us, many who are so deluded as to themselves seem to believe and are trying to make others believe that this calamity is mere stage play, that the closing is done merely for effect and that in good and proper time these gates will again open, operation will be resumed, wages again reduced, and profits made, all at the expense of the working man and woman. I trust that you will believe me when I say that this is not so, that Fall River will be fortunate if these great works ever again resume operation and that the flying squadrons who boasted about closing factories (and beggaring whole people) may have

their boasting come unfortunately true.

"But the most of us are not enlisted in any flying squadron, we cannot come and go and flee when damage is done, leaving behind us closed mills and starving peoples and deserted villages,—we must here abide unto the last and in the sinking of the ship, like good captains, we must needs sink with it.

Pope Leo's Encyclicals

"Many a ship has been scuttled by its crew and as a lifelong friend of labor. And if you will listen to me you will listen to me you will not listen to those who clamor for and predict the annihilation of the capitalist and of his capital. Capital and labor, both rightly interpreted and the rights of each properly exercised and respected, such are necessary component parts of any orderly, prosperous, peaceful community. Do not be misled by those who without accomplishment in their own lives, broach new economic theories and wrap them all up in the covers of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical on 'The Condition of the Laboring Classes.' Read this encyclical for yourself. It has been distributed by the millions of copies. You will not find in it anything for or prophesying the annihilation of the (just) capitalist. You will not find in it anything inferring that gold is of itself cursed and that silver or shinplaters are of themselves blessed.

You will find nothing in it of exploitation of any system of credit or financing. This famous encyclical is indeed a plea for social and industrial justice, it does indeed speak strongly of the injustices and wrongs inflicted by capital upon labor. But it does not give papal approval of every panacea and every cure-all that is proclaimed to be the proper remedy to right these wrongs. Striving after social justice does not entail approving every struggle whether fair or foul that is made to effect his end. The end does not justify the means—when the means are unjustifiable in their unfairness, their insecurity and their innate injustice.

"There shall always be capital, there shall always be labor. There shall always be profits, there shall always be wages. There shall always be some that are richer and some that are poorer. Christ Himself, the indisputable truth has said it: 'The poor you have always with you.' If all were equal today many would be unequal tomorrow.

Strive To Be Fair

"Let us strive, in our own individual life, to be fair both to capital and to labor. That is all that Leo XIII's encyclical demands.

"And here, in our own community, realizing that the cotton industry all over the United States is engaged with foreign nations in a death struggle for continued existence, thereby being of necessity for the present at least a low-wage industry compared with other more favored industries, I plead with my people to be prudent, to be patient, to be even overlong-suffering, to avoid violence, to co-operate fully with every fair employer, to strive faithfully, continuously, yet judiciously, for the correcting of the unfair or for his expulsion from the community and thus improve, increase and retain what we have got and make our city and our diocese a place attractive for capital dealing justly with labor. It is in this hope, this desire, this spirit that the Bishop of Fall River prays spiritual blessing and peace and well-being and the return of prosperity upon all men of good will and wishes all a happy New Year.

CSA Opens Effort to Fix Range of Distress Caused By Woolen Co. Shutdown

Indication Given Community Service Association May Find New Financial Drive Necessary to Combat Conditions; 100 Organizations to be Polled

The Community Service association today began a poll of its 100 member organizations to determine the extent of distress caused in Southbridge by the closing of the Hamilton Woolen Co.

The association, in a letter to each of its members, intimated it might be necessary to inaugurate another financial drive to raise funds to alleviate conditions and expressed confidence that the employed residents of the Town would contribute generously in the effort to ease suffering.

Decision to make the survey and establish a central bureau for relief information to avert duplication and to reach all needy cases was reached at the December CSA meeting.

Harry W. Hill, president of the association, requested each of the member units to answer the questionnaire pertaining to needy cases and to return it at once so steps to combat want may be taken effectively and immediately.

Answers Sought

The questionnaire seeks the name and address of the needy person, the number in his family, the names of employable persons in the family, whether the individual organization is caring for the case and how, and whether assistance is desired from another unit for the person.

The letter sent by Mr. Hill follows:

"At the last regular December meeting of the CSA a very informative report was rendered by Mr. Parkinson, chairman of the distribution committee, indicating that the resources of the CSA may be taxed above their limit through the coming winter.

Co-operation Asked

"After a very general discussion, it was voted that our 100 organizations be appealed to individually, to give to the CSA 100 percent co-operation in an endeavor to alleviate as far as possible the distress and want, due to the closing of one of Southbridge's most important industries.

"The calamity which has visited Southbridge in the past two months, can mean only one thing—extensive difficulty among our people this winter. To prevent suffering is a task bigger than any groups, public or private, acting alone, can hope to accomplish. Shall we again act unitedly through this association and protect the victims of the mill-closing at least from extreme suffering? Will each of Southbridge's 100 bodies give this tremendous task its first attention during the next three months.

"What can your organization do?

Live Committee Needed

"1. Make itself very sensitive to destitution, existing or threatening among its own members and then among others, who may not be members of any group. This means:

"a. Appointing, or summoning to action, a live relief committee.

"b. Interesting your entire membership to inform its committee promptly of cases of distress.

"c. Being systematic enough to send a list of such cases to CSA headquarters so the extent of need in the Town as a whole can be seen.

"Your organization can display its interest at once by canvassing itself for cases of need, and then completing and returning promptly the enclosed survey.

Warning Issued

"2. Decide what your organization can do for the cases which it finds, and what it cannot do, and let the CSA know the result, in order to get credit for what you are doing to inspire others to avoid duplication and to ensure attention for all cases.

"3. Keep people's courage up. There is some way out of this plight for every one, in time. A good slogan to guide our effort is, 'They shall not suffer.' If courage is maintained, people can do much to help themselves. Friendliness and reliable facts will do much to inspire confidence and self-help. Don't let rumors of distress exaggerate the facts. Investigate carefully and use extreme caution in employing money-raising plans and methods proposed by out-of-town people as they may be seeking only commissions or benefits for themselves under the guise of helping charity. The CSA office will be glad to be of assistance to you in such investigations.

Suggestions Wanted

"4. Keep your officers and members well-informed each month about what is being done by other bodies, and about the size of the whole job. Attend CSA meetings, offer suggestions, develop ideas. Is an employment information service necessary for those who feel that they must seek work out of town? Meanwhile other organizations will try to bring work into Town when that becomes possible.

"Our members will want to know that the closing of the Hamilton Woolen Co. has brought more than one form of loss to Southbridge. The mill management had been donating cloth through this association for clothing to many families in need.

Drive Foreseen

"Fortunately the CSA is ready with a working organization and with reserve funds. These are enough for acting promptly, although not nearly adequate for the whole task. Success depends upon each member organization doing its own part, and then jointly helping those organizations which are faltering. In this way, and by adding some direct relief, Southbridge can pull through this calamity.

"While we say the CSA has reserve funds, if we live up to the slogan, 'They shall not suffer,' it will become necessary soon for the association to make an appeal to the fortunate ones in Southbridge who have work, to help again those less fortunate than themselves, and this association has every confidence that when that time comes, the employed men, women, boys and girls of Southbridge, will not be found wanting, and as one of the member organizations of the associations, we shall count upon your hearty support for such a movement."

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

At a special town meeting Monday night the chief interest centered in the question as to whether this town is to continue to permit agitators and responsible persons to come in and sound up a crowd to hear them expound their theories. All the speakers excepting one, Onesiphore Lapierre, favored excluding such persons from the town, and when the vote was taken it showed that the meeting was strongly of the same mind, in fact more than three to one.

Campos Arranges Session to be Held In Hub Next Week

Miss Gauthier Agrees To Attend Meeting With Other Officers

STEPS UNDIVULGED

President of Local Sure Danger of Strikes In Future has Passed

John Campos, labor representative on the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, is arranging for a meeting of the officers of the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America with the board in Boston early next week in another effort to clear up the strike situation before the Hamilton Woolen Co. stockholders meet Jan. 15.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the local, said today the invitation to the meeting would be accepted, as the officers of the union are willing to do anything they can to help.

The committee that will attend the Boston meeting will include Miss Gauthier, Paul Vermiere, vice-president, Catherine Reilly, recording secretary and Mrs. Violette Labonte, financial secretary and treasurer.

Some time ago the State board recommended that the Southbridge strike be called off and promised to work with the management to try to secure the reopening of the mill if this were done. John Chumbley of Washington a representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, was working on the case in Southbridge at the time, and the union made no answer to the board's request to call off the strike.

Just what recommendations the board will make to the union representatives at the coming meeting have not been divulged, but it probably will urge steps so effective that the board can go to the Hamilton directors with assurances of an entirely peaceful and satisfactory settlement.

Chairman Edward Fisher said to The News today: "The people of Southbridge must not think we have forgotten them or given up our intention to do everything we can to open the Hamilton mill. We are going to continue our efforts until the last, and we shall not make a final report until or unless we find no settlement is possible."

Asked whether she thought it possible for all the old employees to go back to work together on a harmonious basis in case of a settlement, with no danger of another strike, Miss Gauthier said today she was confident of it.

George Laplante one of the loyal workers at the Hamilton mills made a strong plea against the importation of outside agitators and he received warm applause. The second article in the warrant called for the transfer of unexpended balances, and was voted without opposition. This was favored by Ira Mosher, chairman of the finance committee of the town.

Union Is Expected to Call Off Strike Today

BETTER DROP THE STRIKE

Editorial

It is probable the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration will again request the officers of the Hamilton local of the U. T. W. A. to call off their strike, at the coming meeting in Boston.

Nothing whatever can be gained by trying to continue the strike. The mill is closed. If there is any chance at all of persuading the Hamilton directors and stockholders to resume operations, it can be served best by clearing the air and dropping a fight that has no prospects of success.

The News has no knowledge of what the stockholders may do Jan. 15, but it hopes the State board may be given the full co-operation of the union officers in its efforts.

Southbridge Mill Strikers Vote 480 to 2 Against Ending Walkout

SOUTHBRIDGE, Jan. 9—Members of local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America voted 480 to 2 against calling off their strike against the Hamilton Woolen Company at a meeting in Pilsudski hall this afternoon.

The group rejected the recommendation of the state board of conciliation and arbitration to end the strike and let the state board arbitrate the union's alleged grievances.

Non-strikers who had planned a "peace celebration" tonight, hoping to influence the directors of the mill not to vote to liquidate the property at a meeting in Boston, Jan. 15, expressed disappointment.

Meanwhile, Arthur G. Rotch, state

ERA administrator, announced that he had granted the town an additional allowance of \$1000 this month, increasing the January allowance to \$19,000 to take care of unemployed mill employes.

When he made up the original January allotment, he increased the town's share several thousand dollars because he said he realized the town was hard hit by the closing of the mills.

Non-strikers criticized police for taking no action against Ira Dickens and Harold Daoust, union officials, who have allegedly been in Southbridge during the past few days in violation of a by-law passed at a special town meeting Dec. 31 which forbids non-residents "from interfering with workers" or conferring or holding meetings.

The mills were closed Dec. 11 after a strike which had lasted since Nov. 14.

STRIKERS ARE TO HOLD VOTE ON CESSATION

State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration to Deal With Directors With View to Plan for Reopening Soon as Union Says Walkout is Discontinued

CHARIMAN FISHER PREPARES PEACE PACT

Hamilton Union to Meet at 4 P. M. in Pilsudski Hall To Vote on Action Miss Gauthier Will Submit Recommendations of Board to the Strikers

Anticipating the "possible acceptance" by strikers at the Hamilton Woolen Co. of the recommendation of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration that the local walkout be cancelled, Chairman Edward Fisher said today in Boston the board was preparing a peace pact to be submitted to the company directors in an effort to re-establish amicable relations between striking members of the United Textile Workers of America and the plant management and to insure a resumption of operations by the mill in Southbridge.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of Hamilton Local 2324 of the U. T. W. A., said a union meeting had been called for 4 p. m. today in Pilsudski hall to ballot on the State board's recommendation to cancel the strike. The recommendation was made to Miss Gauthier in a telegram sent here Dec. 20.

A committee of strikers met the full board yesterday in Boston at the State House and was asked again to call off the strike so fresh overtures could be made to the directors.

Attending the meeting were Miss Gauthier, Miss Catherine Reilly, recording secretary of the Hamilton local; Mrs. Violet Labonte, financial secretary and treasurer, and Harold Daoust, president of a U. T. W. A. local in Farnumsville.

Dickens to be Here

The conference lasted from 3 to 4 p. m.

Miss Gauthier said today she could not predict what would happen at the union meeting today. She indicated she merely would submit the State board's recommendation to strikers for a vote.

She said Ira Dickens of Worcester, central Massachusetts organizer of the national union, would be present at the meeting today.

Miss Gauthier said some of the strikers were working for the ERA and that others had been absorbed by various plants here and elsewhere and possibly would not be able to vote.

To Begin Steps

Mr. Fisher did not divulge the nature of the pact which would be submitted to the company directors and indicated the negotiations would depend upon the attitude of the officials.

The board said it was prepared to resume negotiations with the company as soon as it was notified officially the strike had been cancelled.

Mr. Fisher said he understood Richard Lennihan president of the firm, would return from the south shortly and that if the strikers voted to abandon the walkout, he would get in touch with Mr. Lennihan immediately regarding terms for reopening the local mill.

The board, in an official statement after the conference yesterday, said:

Board Invited Visit

"On the invitation of the board a committee of the employees of the Hamilton Woolen Co. visited its office this afternoon and discussed the recommendation of the board as contained in its telegram, and the board is now awaiting the action of the employees thereon."

The telegram urged the strikers to drop the walkout as a preliminary to further negotiations.

The mill stockholders will meet next Tuesday, Jan. 15, in Boston to vote on the recommendation of their directors that the mill be liquidated and the company dissolved. The directors have given no indication of any recession from their recommendation.

The strike began Nov. 14 and still was in effect when the mill closed permanently Dec. 11.

UNION VOTES TO CALL OFF STRIKE HERE

Local Acts Favorably On Recommendation Walkout Be Dropped

No Indication Immediately Available Concerning Size
Of Majority; Tally Tabulation Expected to Be
Completed by U. T. W. A. Heads Late Today

STATE BOARD PREPARES TO MAKE MOVE

Conciliators Await Only Official Notice of Result Of
Balloting Before Resuming Negotiations With
Management and Directors of Local Plant

Members of Hamilton Local 2324, United Textile Workers of America, voted favorably today on compliance with the request of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration that the strike at the closed Hamilton Woolen Co. be dropped, thus clearing the way for the board to resume negotiations with the concern's management and directors.

No indication was immediately available concerning the margin by which the request was carried. It was expected, however, that the tally, to be completed by late afternoon, would show a large majority had accepted the proposal that the strike be ended.

The vote originally was scheduled to have been taken yesterday but because of the absence of a number of strikers and the short notice given of the balloting, union officials decided to delay the polling until today.

They said they wanted to get a representative opin-

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1935

Strike Without End

By a vote of 480 to 2, the local union of the United Textile Workers of America decided last night to continue the strike against the Hamilton Woolen Company at Southbridge. It may be regarded as probable that the vote was also a vote to close the mill. The stockholders of the company are to meet next Tuesday to act on the question of liquidating its affairs as recommended by the directors. In an endeavor to prevent action which would be a heavy blow to the town and its people, including the strikers themselves, the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration recommended that the strike be called off and the issues between the union and the management be submitted to arbitration. That proposal the strikers reject. The fate of the mill is thus, in a manner that might be described as contemptuous, left in the hands of the stockholders.

In the meantime we read of an extra allotment of Emergency Relief Funds to the town of Southbridge because of unemployment there caused in large measure by this strike. Here is admittedly a difficult situation. The motive which prompted the relief activities of the Federal Government was to aid those who, through no fault of their own, cannot help themselves. Work was in this manner to be provided for such victims of the depression. The Federal Government, in theory, at least, was not

setting up a strike fund. It would seem to be contributing to such a fund in Southbridge. But the ERA administration is in position to say that it is confronted with a condition rather than a theory.

People in want of the necessities of life must be fed and sheltered even if their plight is caused by their own action. And children, in particular, are not to suffer because of the course taken by their elders. Twentieth century standards do not tolerate starvation as an accompaniment of labor troubles. Southbridge must care for its own, and being under that necessity it is reasonable that it shall not be penalized by the refusal of Government aid proportioned to the need.

But in a case such as this, especial care should be taken to see to it that emergency work under public auspices is not permitted to become more attractive than regular work in private industry. It would be unfortunate were the resort to strikes in place of arbitration, as in this Southbridge case, to be facilitated by the belief that Uncle Sam will provide soft jobs for the strikers until such time as they see fit to return to their original employment or themselves to find a substitute for it. Recognition of the necessity of providing the necessities of life even for the misguided among the jobless does not alter the fact that it is a sorry spectacle when Federal emergency relief is, in effect, transformed into a strike fund.

ion from union members.

Union heads made it clear they had not voted to call off the walkout but balloted on the telegraphic request of the State board to cancel the strike so negotiations with the plant management and its directors could be started again.

Ira Dickens, central Massachusetts organizer of the U. T. W. A., who was here yesterday when the meeting was postponed because of the poor attendance, was in Southbridge again today at Pilsudski hall, where the balloting took place.

Officials of the Hamilton local attributed the small attendance yesterday to the fact that many union members were working for the Emergency Relief Administration or had obtained employment in textile mills in towns surrounding Southbridge.

About 200 of the reported union membership of 450 attended yesterday's session.

Work on ERA projects customarily is suspended on Wednesdays,

which enabled a larger representation of strikers to ballot today.

The telegram asking cancellation of the strike was sent to Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, Dec. 20, a request which was made again when a union committee met members of the State board in Boston Monday.

The State board today said it would await official notice from the Hamilton local that the strike had been dropped before it attempts to negotiate for a resumption of activities at the local mill, which has been closed since Dec. 11.

The board will have only until next Tuesday to press for a settlement. The special meeting of the company's stockholders is slated to be held Tuesday in the Chamber of Commerce, building, Boston, when they will vote whether to endorse the directors in their recommendation that the plant be liquidated and the corporation dissolved.

Union Officer Says U. T. W. Fails to Support Members

The following letter, accompanied by a clipping from the Daily News Record of New York, has been received by The News from a reader with the request for publication:

To the Editor of The News:

Sir: I am sending you a clipping from the Daily News Record, a paper issued for the dry goods trade, containing a letter from a former officer of the U. T. W. A. local in Greenwood, S. C. I hope you will publish this letter, as it gives an inside view of the real purpose behind the organization of textile workers. The national officers want members for the dues they will pay.

DAVID HOBSON.

The clipping from the News Record is entitled "Greenwood Worker Writes on Union," and reads as follows:

Greenwood, S. C.—Miss Carrie Nash, former financial secretary of Textile Union No. 2171, here, recently wrote the following to the Greenwood Index Journal:

"When the union was first organized I was under the impression that such an organization had the financial backing of the U. T. W. A. in close cooperation with the A. F. of L., which I understood had a large treasury.

"At the time the union was organized I was making a good living wage, and was aware of it, but at the same time I felt that if by joining the union and helping to support the organization it would at some future time be the means of increasing my own or other people's salaries, I was willing to do so.

"After joining I was elected to fill the office of financial secretary, therefore, I feel that I am in a position to know a few things that might be enlightening to others.

"Before the strike was called I had sent to James Starr, secretary to Francis J. Gorman, approximately \$1,100. During the strike we received weekly bulletins from headquarters, issued by Gorman, telling us to hold fast, stick together, etc., that they were behind us and wide awake, which led us to believe that when we reached a crisis we would receive help from headquarters.

"After our local treasury was depleted our secretary was authorized by the president to send Mr. Gorman a special delivery, stating our circumstances. This,

being done, we waited a week and, receiving no reply, a telegram was then sent to Mr. Gorman telling him it would be impossible to carry on any longer without help. We received no reply from this.

"At the convention in Gaffney a resolution was drawn up and telegraphed to Mr. Gorman asking that a commissary be set up in Greenwood for the relief of the two locals, and to my knowledge Gorman hasn't been heard from yet.

"When Peele, Brookshire and Rogers come down and cry, 'Stick together, you've got the backing'—well, that's a huge joke. They want the locals to stick together, sure, for that's where their salary come from. The only help we ever got was from other locals, and if one local in Carolina has to help another, why is it necessary to send Gorman the money?

"Each month that I mailed Gorman's secretary a money order, usually around \$150, there wasn't a minute lost in the time it took for it to get there and a receipt to get back here, thanking us and wishing us all kinds of success and hoping we would continue to grow.

"Before the union was organized I don't know of a single needy family in our community, and now I could name a dozen needy families. What has the union profited any of us? It has bred enmity among a few and brought hardships to many, and now Mr. Gorman doesn't even recall that there was ever a local No. 2171 in Greenwood, S. C., or, if he does, there is no evidence of the facts.

"I sincerely hope that if anyone reading this happens to be a 100 per cent union member, or is still inclined to belong to a union, he or she will not be offended, for I have merely stated the true facts.

"I do not care for any more union experience and prefer to be dictated to, from now on, by someone I know personally and not Gorman.

"CARRIE NASH.

"329 Grove Street,
"Greenwood, S. C."

STATE TO RE SUME STEPS

Rejection Described As Staggering Blow; Fisher's Plan Halted

**Reports Prevail in Southbridge Riviere Telegraphed
Miss Gauthier to Continue Strike at Hamilton;
Union Head Denies Influence by Outsiders**

YESTERDAY'S STRIKE VOTE DISCREDITED

**200 Persons Reported as Present in Pilsudski Hall
When Balloting is Held; Head of Local Insists
Work Wanted; Lennihan Sees 'Nothing Left'**

Surprised and chagrined by the action of the Hamilton local of the U. T. W. A. yesterday in rejecting its proposal that the strike be called off as a move toward peace, the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration is today planning further efforts to avert the liquidation of the Hamilton Woolen Co.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, announced last night the union had voted 480 to 2 against calling off the strike. The news of this action surprised everybody, as it was generally understood in advance of the union meeting in Pilsudski hall an agreement had been reached to vote favorably on the State board's proposal.

Miss Gauthier told The News this action would be taken, and many others were given the same information.

The Hamilton stockholders will meet at the Chamber of Commerce in Boston at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning, and little time remains to break the deadlock. The State board is holding a series of conferences in Boston today to consider measures that may be taken.

Chairman Edward Fisher said today: "The rejection of our peace plan by the union yesterday is the most staggering blow we have ever received. We were all ready to go to work with the Hamilton directors to try to persuade them to give up the plan to liquidate, when this action took our ammunition away from us. However, we shall keep on trying."

Reports are common today Joseph Sylvia sent a telegram to Miss Gauthier yesterday afternoon, which she received at the union meeting, asking that the strike be continued and that no further action be taken until he had an opportunity to confer with local officers.

Miss Gauthier denies in positive terms having received a telegram yesterday from Mr. Sylvia or from anyone else. She has not seen Sylvia for several days, she says, although she yesterday mentioned having had a phone conversation with him in the morning.

An account of what took place at yesterday's meeting has reached The News from a highly credible source, but confirmation from union officers is unobtainable. According to the report, the meeting opened with short talks by members, some of whom favored continuing the strike, with others in opposition.

After the discussion, announcement was made a vote would be taken by ballot, and the union members were asked to move past the speakers' stand in order to vote yes or no on the State board's proposal. Slips of paper and pencils were provided.

According to this account, Miss Gauthier had received at 11 a. m. yesterday a telegram from Horace Riviere of Pawtucket, fourth vice-president of the U. T. W. A., saying in effect: "Don't vote today, but if you do, vote against calling off the strike."

This telegram, according to the report, was read to the meeting in Pilsudski hall yesterday afternoon before the balloting began. A story comes from several sources that a number of the 200 persons present voted three times.

An account of developments of the week has been supplied by the informed person mentioned above, as follows: After local union officials met the State board in Boston Monday, a meeting was held in Southbridge Monday night, at which Ira Dickens and Harold Daoust advised the union members to follow their own inclinations, and to call off the strike if they were so disposed.

Dissatisfaction Grows

In consequence of this advice, it was agreed to accept the olive branch from the State board. Then came the word from Riviere yesterday, and the change of tactics he advised.

It is reported today dissatisfaction is growing in the union ranks, because of the failure to make progress toward peace, and predictions are made this discontent will be voiced at a union meeting to be held Saturday afternoon at 2:30. Several members who voted to call off the strike are displeased because their ballots were not counted, it is said.

Want Their Jobs Back

When reminded today of the gravity of the situation growing out of the deadlock, with the Hamilton stockholders' meeting only a few days away, Miss Gauthier said:

"Nobody is more anxious than I to have the mill open. We ask nothing more than the chance to go back to work, just as we were before Labor day. We are afraid if we call off the strike we will not get that chance."

Asked about the complete reversal in developments after it was understood the vote would be favorable to the State board's plan, Miss Gauthier said: "You said in the paper last night it was because we heard the Hamilton Protective association was going to have a victory celebration. It was something else besides that. It was because we didn't want to weaken our chances of going back to work together."

Only Want Mill Open

According to leaders in that organization, the Hamilton Protective association has not thought of a victory celebration, or any other move that might increase the tension. The Protective association, according to its spokesmen, is concerned only in getting the mill open, and considers it is working in the interest of all the former employees, regardless of affiliation.

President Richard Lennihan of the Hamilton Woolen Co. returned to Southbridge Tuesday afternoon at the conclusion of a brief vacation in Georgia. He appears rested and in better health and spirits than when he went away. Asked for comment on the situation he said today:

"There is nothing I can offer at present, and nothing appears left for me to do before the stockholders' meeting."

Mr. Lennihan said he advocated allowing representatives of the newspapers to attend the meeting, as well as delegations from local groups having an interest in the outcome.

U. T. W. CHIEFS SUED BY MOUNT HOPE CO.

Flying Squadron Tactics To Cause Strike Bring Conspiracy Charges

The Mount Hope Finishing Co. of North Dighton, Mass., through its treasurer, Joseph K. Milliken, has begun a suit against Thomas J. McMahon, Francis J. Gorman, and all other officers of the U. T. W. wherever located, charging conspiracy and asking for punitive damages.

An account of the suit and the reasons behind it is contained in a long editorial article in the current issue of the American Wool and Cotton Reporter. The basis of the action is an attempt by flying squadrons to close the North Dighton mill at the time of the general strike early in September.

The company has individual signed labor contracts with 97 percent of its employees, and there was no disposition to restlessness at the time the strike began. A squadron of 30 cars loaded with U. T. W. leaders and strikers set out from Providence for North Dighton, 30 miles away, but on reaching the town they found all the streets leading to the mill were barricaded, and behind the barricades were 400 husky men armed with guns, night-sticks, and baseball bats. This force had been specially deputized by the town authorities.

Finding this situation discouraging, the invaders went right along out of town and proceeded to Canton, Mass., where they succeeded in closing a small woolen mill that hadn't had a strike in 50 years.

It is the intention of Mr. Milliken to carry his conspiracy action to the Supreme Court of the United States, if necessary, in an attempt to stop the practice of intimidation by flying squadrons, and to collect damages for the costs involved in protecting the mill property.

In its article the American Wool and Cotton Reporter calls upon all textile manufacturers to join the Mount Hope Finishing Co. in pushing the suit.

ASK DIRECTORS TO RECONSIDER

Bernheim, Laliberte, Taylor and Demers Take Plea to Boston

**Bernheim Assured After Presenting Case for Town
Directors Would Discuss it at Meeting Today;
Letter of Union Member Shows Discontent**

In a further effort to prevent the liquidation of the Hamilton mill a committee from Southbridge, including Daniel P. Bernheim, Maurice Taylor, Oswald Laliberte, and Chairman J. E. Demers of the Board of Selectmen, met directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. in the office of Thomas P. Beal in the Second National bank in Boston yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Bernheim presented the case for Southbridge. He stated that the people of the town have been in sympathy with the management, and would support it faithfully hereafter if given an opportunity. He reminded the directors of the 107 years of peaceful operation here, and assured them they could be confident of trouble-free conditions in the future; that Southbridge would at any rate be as free of trouble as the best of other industrial towns.

The committee found the directors disposed to stand on the announcement they would recommend liquidation to the stockholders Tuesday, but after Mr. Bernheim had concluded his talk he was assured that the case as he had presented it would be discussed at another meeting of the directors in Boston today.

A letter from a member of the Hamilton local of the U. T. W. A., with copies written in French and Polish, was brought to The News today with a request that it be published in all three languages. This letter expresses discontent with the failure of the strike to accomplish anything more than the closing of the mill, and calls upon other members of the union to endeavor to get the strike called off.

Sacrifice Local Interests

It is becoming known that some of the members of the union fear their interests are being sacrificed by outside leaders in their struggle to maintain and assert their own power, and in the effort to discredit and handicap the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration in its effort to save the mill and the jobs of the workers.

These members are said to believe the local union should stand on its own feet and manage its

own affairs to the advantage of the workers who are interested in regaining employment.

John A. Chumbley, field representative of the National Textile Relations board, was in Southbridge for a short time today. He said he could see nothing further to do at this time, and added that he expected to remain in the vicinity until after the Hamilton stockholders' meeting Tuesday.

Denies Seeing Riviere

Mr. Chumbley denied a statement published this morning in the Worcester Telegram that he had been conferring with Horace A. Riviere, fourth vice-president of the U. T. W. A. who is held responsible for the action of the Hamilton local in rejecting the peace proposal of the State board. He has not seen Mr. Riviere for some time, he said, and is not seeking a conference with him.

Mr. Chumbley says he would like to see the mill open under conditions fair to both management and workers.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1935

ENFORCING A CONTRACT

The town of Clinton, which has been making a courageous and successful drive to secure new industries to occupy empty factory buildings, has fallen into a piece of bad luck. The story of what has happened can be usefully studied in Southbridge.

Ralph A. Freundlich, Inc., doll manufacturer, accepted an invitation to move from New York to Clinton and is now operating busily in the new location. This company had a reason for moving which was perhaps not thoroughly examined by the new industries committee of Clinton. It had made a closed shop contract with the Doll and Toy Workers' union in New York to escape strikes, and finding this arrangement did not end its troubles, concluded to move out of the State.

Manufacturers of a certain type have more than once made closed shop contracts and then have sought to escape the consequences in one way or another, but the NRA is proving too much for them. Making a closed shop contract is akin to contracting plural marriages on a grand scale, with all the hundreds of wives being counseled by exacting relatives on the outside. Divorce is extraordinarily difficult.

The union in New York sought to enjoin the Freundlich company from escaping by running away, and it has succeeded in securing a permanent injunction from Justice William Harlan Black of the Supreme court, forbidding removal to Clinton, unless the company will employ union workers there.

Justice Black went still further. He appointed a referee to assess damages against the company to reimburse the union for the loss of pay by union workers in New York. Had the union broken its contract with the company to the latter's financial loss, it is highly improbable the Freundlich attorneys could have found anything in the law permitting them to collect damages for their client. Laws affecting contracts that do not require equal responsibility are clearly unjust.

Obviously employers should be careful to enter no contracts they cannot carry out, and communities must be watchful of the industries they seek.

Hamilton Stockholders Meet Next Tuesday

S. Press

Jan. 11, '35

Next Tuesday forenoon at 11 o'clock in Boston, the stockholders of the Hamilton Woolen Co. will vote on the recommendation of the directors on the question of liquidating the affairs of the company. The directors sometime ago came to the conclusion that such a course would be the best for all concerned, and unless such a step was taken the assets would crumble away. The community, of course, is very anxious to have

the company continue its operations, and there is some reason for believing that this would be done if the small handful of workers, dominated by outsiders would stand aside and let the 95 per cent of the workers who are anxious to work do so.

The selectmen, and it is understood, although not announced that local organizations will be represented at the meeting to declare the wishes of the people.

If Horace A. Riviere may be said to have a few faults as a labor leader, we should say the chief one is stupidity. He is a big piece of bad luck for his followers in the Hamilton local of the U. T. W.

A smart and successful leader is one who obtains results—who gets his people back to work on favorable terms with the least possible loss of time. He knows the difference between a winning and a losing fight, and when he sees the battle going against him he has the sense to make a quick move and save as much out of the wreck for his followers as he can.

Messrs. Sylvia and Dickens have not exactly endeared themselves to the people of Southbridge by engineering the closing of the Hamilton mill, but at least they had the good sense to refrain from advising the Hamilton local to reject the plan of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. Calling off the strike was not opposed by them.

It took a man of Riviere's character and mental attainments to destroy all our hopes of getting the mill opened, by urging the union members to keep on fighting their lost cause. He has dealt Southbridge a mean blow, but those he has injured most are the workers who trustingly followed his advice, without stopping to think whether he was competent to give advice.

Mr. Riviere explains that Richard Lennihan is bluffing, and the closing of the mill is a gesture. If he sincerely desired the reopening of the mill and the return of the strikers to their old employment, he would call the alleged "bluff" of the management by telling the union members to call off the strike and offer their loyal services to the company.

That sort of action would put the issue squarely up to Mr. Lennihan and his directors. No longer could they say to their stockholders and the people of Southbridge that the prospect of continued labor strife made their chances of future success hopeless.

Why did Mr. Riviere advise the union members against taking the course that would have cleared their record and put the responsibility for opening the mill squarely up to the directors? We have hinted at stupidity, but there may be another explanation also.

Isn't it possible, or even quite likely, that Mr. Riviere wishes to satisfy a personal grudge or get revenge on somebody? Perhaps he would like to defeat and humiliate the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, which has tried hard to help everybody involved in this unfortunate mess, even though in doing this he sacrifices the strikers.

Should this prove to be his purpose, it would appear he is the worst possible leader the strikers could follow: a man whose leadership should be repudiated at the earliest possible moment.

The officers and members of the Hamilton local have only a little time left to act if they wish to do their part in the communal effort to prevent liquidation of the mill. They must think for themselves, at last, and get rid of the stupid and malicious influences that have been leading them to disaster.

Will the Hamilton Mills Be Reopened?

More than ever do the people of this community believe that at least three quarters of the number of Hamilton Woolen Co. hands are anxious to have the mills reopened, and that they may be permitted to return to their accustomed jobs without fear and without reproach.

The report of the strikers meeting on Wednesday, unsupported as it is by authentic figures as to the vote taken on the question of calling off the strike, leaves the general public unaffected and incredulous. The statement that 480 odd were in favor of continuing the strike and only two votes to the contrary, is not accepted in view of the known wishes of hundreds of the mill workers who have said again and again that they want to go back to work.

When the mill closed just a little short of 700 hands were at work, and this despite the jeers and insults of pickets. As the books of the company show that there were not more than a thousand employed in normal times, it is difficult for the ordinary person to be convinced that there are 480 now registering as against calling off the strike.

Observers in the vicinity of the meeting place of the strikers declare

that but relatively few visited the polling hall and it is pretty generally known that even some who did are heartily tired of the strike.

The State Board of Conciliation took a hand once more in the strike. Although the mill directorate has voted to liquidate the affairs of the company and has called a special stockholders meeting for that purpose, the state board, hopeful of a more favorable outcome of the prolonged labor trouble at the mill, has urged the strikers to drop the strike as a preliminary to further negotiations.

The board conferred with a committee of five workers from the mill headed by Miss Jean Gauthier and later issued the following statement: "On the invitation of the board a committee of the employees of the Hamilton Woolen Co. visited its office and discussed the recommendation of the board as contained in its telegram."

The telegram to which the board referred was dispatched several weeks ago urging that the strikers call off their walkout and promising, if this was done, that the board would then proceed to submit joint recommendations to both sides.

Member of Hamilton Local Urges Union to Drop Strike So Mill Doors Will Open

Gorman Rapped for Failure to Keep 'Nice Promise'
Plant Would Resume Operations Jan. 2; Claims
'We are Missing Bread, Clothes ... are Cold'

An appeal from the ranks of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America, addressed to the union through The News by a member of the organization, today urged strikers to vote at a union meeting tomorrow to drop the walkout "so the doors where we earn our daily bread will reopen."

The union member desired that his anonymity be preserved.

He rapped Francis J. Gorman, leader of the general strike and vice-president of the U. T. W. A., for failing to keep his "nice promise" the mill would be open by Jan. 2.

Inspired by the revelation from a Greenwood, S. C., union officer that the U. T. W. A. failed to provide for its members, the striker charged "we are missing bread, clothes and we are cold."

The letter, reprinted in English, French and Polish, follows:

Letter in English

"After studying the letter of Carrie Nash of Greenwood, S. C., I'd like to give my opinion.

"We have the same trouble in this town. Since we organized a union we are in trouble and hardship. We are missing bread, clothes and many of us are cold. We have lost the confidence of many good friends and also our good parents. We have not feasted Christmas and New Year's with a joyous heart as in years past.

"Mr. Gorman in the speech he gave at Webster and Putnam said before leaving there would be peace and the Hamilton Woolen Co. would reopen the first of the month. They are nice promises but they are still to come. He came to get what belonged to him and he left us without money or jobs.

"It is up to us, brothers to wake up from this bad dream. Let's all get together and vote Saturday to call off the strike so the doors where we earn our daily bread will reopen and peace be for all of us.

"UNION MEMBER."

Letter in French

"J'aimerais bien a donner mon opinion, apres avoir bien etudiee la lettre de Carrie Nash de Greenwood, S. C. On a le meme tableau devant nos yeux. Depuis qu'on a organise l'Union dans notre village c'est-a-dire le mois de Septembre qu'on est dans le trouble et la misere. Il nous manque du pain, des habits, et on a froid.

"On a perdu la confiance de plusieurs bons amis, et plusieurs on perdu leurs bons parents.

"On a pas feter la belle fete de Noel avec un coeurs joyeux.

"M. Gorman dans sa lecture qu'il a donne a Webster et Putnam, il nous a promis qu'on aurait la paix, et que la Hamilton Woolen Co. serait ouverte bientot.

On attend encore sa belle promesse. Il est venu chercher ce qui lui appartenait, il nous a lesser pas d'argent et pas d'ouvrage et debattez vous.

"C'est a nous confrere, de se reveillez de ce mauvais reve, allons tous ensemble voter Samedi pour faire ouvrir les portes la ou vient notre pain et oublions tous la difficulte qu'il a entre nous tous, afin qu'on sera encore en paix.

"MEMBRE DE L'UNION."

Letter in Polish

"Po przeczytaniu listu od Pani Carrie Nash z Greenwood, S. C.

"Ja by lubialam moje opinia zdac.

"My tu wtem miescie mamy to sama zamiesanie. Od tego casu co my zalozyli te union to my mamy zamiesanie i nie porozumienie wtej union.

"Duzo znas jest takich co nam brakuje chelba i odierzy i duzo nas odczuwa zymna.

"Pomiendzy nami jest wielka nie nawisc i jeden drugiego nie sanuje tak jak przed przyjazdem agitatoron zdругich miastow bo tak najiechali jak robaki na kartofle.

"Bardzo nam jest przykro ze my nie mieli Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia tak jak w przyslych rokach i nawet Nowy Rok 1935 sie rozpoczon wtakiem wielkiem smutku i nie nawisci.

"Mr. Gorman wswowej mowie w Webster i Putnam nam nowil zaczem wyjechal ze bedzie z goda po mienndzy robotnikami i kompanistami i ze fabryka Hamilton Woolen Company mala byc otworzona na poczatku Stycznia.

"Przyjechal i obiecywal nam zlote gory ale jeszcze nie ma wydoku w kiedy bedziemy mogli je zabaczyc. Przyszechal dostac co mu sie nalezalo i zostawil nas przes pieniedzy i prezes pracy.

"Nadzil czas drodzy bracia i siostry zeby my sie obudzili i przypaczylil wnase przysloc co nas dali czeka i zeby wsobote wszysczy razem stanyli i glosowali za zakunczeniem tego striku, zeby te drzwi gdzie my zarobiali na nas chleb zostali otwarte i dla nas bracia i siostry bogoslawiestwo i pokoj ludziom dobrej wole.

CZWONEK OD UNION

Town to Make Final Plea To Stockholders

Board of Selectmen, Mill Protective Association Will Attend Meeting in Boston Chamber of Commerce Building Tuesday; M. and M. to Decide Monday

MEETING TO BE OPEN TO LOCAL RESIDENTS

Report That Hamilton Company is Making Samples For a New Hampshire Firm is Found Absolutely Baseless by State Board After Investigating

Final efforts to induce the Hamilton Woolen Co. to continue operations in Southbridge will be made at Boston Tuesday at the stockholders' meeting when the Board of Selectmen and the Hamilton Protective association will plead against liquidation and dissolution of the corporation which has poured millions of dollars into Southbridge during more than a century of existence.

Heads of the Manufacturers and Merchants association said they would decide Monday whether they would send a delegation to the Chamber of Commerce building, where the meeting will be held at 11 a. m.

Richard Lennihan, president of the strike-closed company, said today anybody in Southbridge who wished to attend the meeting could do so.

Members of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America were scheduled to meet this afternoon in Pilsudski hall but no indication was given the union contemplated rescinding its vote of last Wednesday when it refused to call off the strike.

Mr. Lennihan will preside at the stockholders meeting. He said anybody could address the session who desired.

John Chumbley, representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board who has been in Southbridge since Wednesday noon, left the hotel where he had been staying last night and intimated he might return here. He did not mention the date, however, or give his destination.

All three Selectmen, J. Edouard Demers, Julian C. Gabree and Valmore P. Tetreault, plan to make the Boston trip next Tuesday.

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, whose plea for dropping the strike was scorned by the union Wednesday on advice reputedly received from Horace Riviere of Manchester, N. H., fourth national vice-president of the U. T. W. A., today exploded reports the Hamilton concern had been making samples for a firm in New Hampshire.

Edward Fisher, chairman of board, said from his home in Lowell the rumor had been investigated and found to be absolutely baseless.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, could not be reached for a statement concerning discussions which would arise at the union meeting this afternoon, it being reported from her home she was in Worcester.

WOOLEN MILL STRIKE IN CONNECTICUT TODAY

200 Workers Employed by Plant at Stafford Springs

STAFFORD SPRINGS, Ct., Jan. 13 (AP)—Officials of the United Textile Workers' Union, local 2035, announced tonight that all members of the local employed at the Cyril Johnson Woolen Company here, would go out on strike Monday.

The union officials said the strike was voted Saturday because of charges by the local that the woolen company is employing two persons formerly employed at the Hamilton woolen mills in Southbridge, Mass., during a strike at that plant.

Pickets will form a line at the local plant at 6 P. M. tomorrow.

The Cyril Johnson Company employs 200 persons, and since the national textile strike three months ago, the plant has been on two 40-hour shifts.

Ronald Mitchel, an official of the company said the mill would open as usual tomorrow.

The strike was called, union officials said, after representatives of the local and company officials failed to reach an agreement Saturday.

AS OTHERS SEE IT

STRIKE WITHOUT END

(Boston Transcript)

By a vote of 480 to 2, the local union of the United Textile Workers of America decided Wednesday night to continue to strike against the Hamilton Woolen Co. at Southbridge. It may be regarded as probable that the vote was also a vote to close the mill. The stockholders of the company are to meet next Tuesday to act on the question of liquidating its affairs as recommended by the directors. In an endeavor to prevent action which would be a heavy blow to the town and its people, including the strikers themselves, the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration recommended that the strike be called off and the issues between the union and the management be submitted to arbitration. That proposal the strikers reject. The fate of the mill is thus, in a manner that might be described as contemptuous, left in the hands of the stockholders.

In the meantime we read of an extra allotment of Emergency Relief Funds to the town of Southbridge because of unemployment there caused in large measure by this strike. Here is admittedly a difficult situation. The motive which prompted the relief activities of the Federal government was to aid those who, through no fault of their own, cannot help themselves. Work was in this manner to be provided for such victims of the depression. The Federal government, in theory, at least, was not setting up a strike fund. It would seem to be contributing to such a fund in Southbridge. But the ERA administration is in position to say that it is confronted with a condition rather than a theory.

People in want of the necessities of life must be fed and sheltered even if their plight is caused by their own action. And children, in particular, are not to suffer because of the course taken by their elders. Twentieth century standards do not tolerate starvation as an accompaniment of labor troubles. Southbridge must care for its own, and being under that necessity it is reasonable that it shall not be penalized by the refusal of government aid proportioned to the need.

But in a case such as this, especial care should be taken to see to it that emergency work under public auspices is not permitted to become more attractive than regular work in private industry. It would be unfortunate were the resort to strikes in place of arbitration, as in this Southbridge case, to be facilitated by the belief that Uncle Sam will provide soft jobs for the strikers until such time as they see fit to return to their original employment or themselves to find a substitute for it. Recognition of the necessity of providing the necessities of life even for the misguided among the jobless does not alter the fact that it is a sorry spectacle when Federal emergency relief is, in effect, transformed into a strike fund.

Labor and ERA Funds

To the Editor of The Herald: Boston

It is stated in Thursday's Herald that the state ERA administration has granted the town of Southbridge \$19,000 for the month of January "to take care of unemployed mill employees." If the labor unions had not interfered with the mill management, the Hamilton Woolen Company mills would be running now, and the mill workers of Southbridge would be employed. Will you tell me what justice there is to mill owners, to loyal mill workers, to taxpayers, to any one, that these strikers who could work but won't work, are to be supported at public expense?

It is my belief that striking members of labor unions who could work but won't, who are thereby tearing down industry and making the position of willing workers more difficult—that such strikers should be supported not by local, state or federal funds, but by the unions on whose authority they are out on strike.

In the case at Southbridge, "the members of local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America voted 480 to 2 against calling off the strike," therefore those 480 members should be supported by the United Textile Workers of America. If unions everywhere knew that they would be responsible for taking care of their members when they strike, they would be less likely to permit strikes, and the subsequent difficulties on both sides would be fewer. Why should the government have strict codes for the employers, but apparently let the labor unions do as they please? Those out of work through no fault of their own should be helped by public funds, but tell me why those out of work by vote of some union should not be supported by that union.

Brookline, Jan. 13. S. G. LANE

Final Attempts Made To Avert Liquidation; Johnson Co. is Closed

Stafford Springs Concern Refuses to Discharge Hamilton Workers

225 LOSE POSITIONS

Plant Shuts Indefinitely When Pickets Form After Strike Vote

By News Staff Writer

STAFFORD SPRINGS, Conn., Jan. 14—The Cyril Johnson Woolen Co., confronted by a strike as the result of its refusal to discharge two workers hired by the Hamilton Woolen Co. at Southbridge, Mass., during the strike in the southern Worcester county town, today closed its doors for an indefinite period, throwing 225 persons out of work.

The company had planned to resume operations as usual this morning but decided to close when pickets assembled outside the mill.

Ronald Mitchell, a company official, said 40 persons reported to appear because of the presence of pickets. The company estimated the number of pickets at 30, all employees of the local concern.

Officers of Local 2035, United Textile Workers of America, said the walkout was voted Saturday on the ground the woolen firm was employing two persons who formerly worked at the Hamilton mill while the strike there was in effect.

Johnson officials admitted the two were on its payroll and said they formerly had been employed here. One of the two involved in the local strike, they said, was a U. T. W. A. member.

Mr. Mitchell said one of the two workers was employed by the Massachusetts mill for a day and a half and the other for five days.

He said union officials had conferred with the company Friday about discharging the two employees but the firm had refused to comply.

The company said it had no idea when it would resume operations.

The picket line was formed at 6 a. m. but no violence was reported.

Since the general textile strike of last September, the plant has been running on two 40-hour shifts. The night shift, scheduled to begin work at 4 p. m., also has been abandoned, the firm said.

Mill Denies Knowledge Of Firing Hamilton Men

Special Correspondence

WEBSTER, Jan. 14—Officials of the Webster Mills, an affiliate of the American Woolen Co., today said they knew nothing of reports prevalent in Southbridge that the local company had discharged two employees added to the Webster firm's payroll following the closing of the Hamilton Woolen Co.

The two understood to have been dropped were reported to be former employees of the Hamilton firm.

Questioned whether the Webster Mills had hired any workers from the strike-closed Southbridge plant, officials said they did not know. They also replied that they had no knowledge of any discharges during the past week.

They indicated, however, it would not be the policy of the

State Board as Well As Local Groups Strive For a Settlement

LITTLE HOPE LASTS

Report Union Membership Split on Question Of Calling Off Strike

In the shadow of certainty that the stockholders of the Hamilton Woolen Co. will tomorrow vote to go out of business, the Selectmen, the Manufacturers and Merchants association, and others interested in reopening the mill are making such last-minute efforts as they can today to save the situation.

The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration is devoting all of today to the problem, and with them is Miss Anna Weinstock of Washington, who spent some time in Southbridge recently, trying to get the strike leaders to accept a settlement proposed by the board.

All is ready for the stockholders' meeting, to be held in Chamber of Commerce building in Boston tomorrow morning at 11. The Selectmen will attend, and so will committees from the M. & M. and the Hamilton Protective association. Residents of Southbridge will be free to address the meeting, although none but stockholders can vote.

Union Will Meet

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, said today she would not attend the meeting, and added she has no plan to present that might affect favorably the action of stockholders. The local union held a meeting Saturday afternoon and listened to a talk by the president of the Worcester local of the U. T. W. A. No action was taken.

Another meeting of the Hamilton local will be held this afternoon, but unless the unexpected develops, nothing will be done to change the situation.

It is currently reported that a number of the union members would like to have the State board's proposal accepted in time to do some good, but they are held in check by the officers. It is said the union believes 25 of their number—probably those charged with violence—would not be taken back in case the mill opened, and the strike is being maintained for the sake of the 25.

company to employ former Hamilton workers because of the possibility of a labor dispute which would disrupt already disturbed conditions here.

Southbridge reports said the workers had been dropped to avert a protest similar to the one which has resulted in the closing of the Cyril Johnson Woolen Co. at Stafford Springs, Conn.

No Material Change

President Richard Lennihan will preside over the stockholders' meeting tomorrow. After the organization has been effected and a check has been made of the stockholders present or represented by proxy, Mr. Lennihan will read the call for the meeting sent out just before Christmas by the directors.

This recites the story of the strike and recommends liquidation.

Mr. Lennihan then will add that there has been no material change in the situation since, and will open the meeting to discussion by stockholders and statements by interested persons from Southbridge.

After the discussion, the vote will be taken. As matters stand today, in the face of the deadlock created by the refusal of the Hamilton local to accept the offer of the State board to use its good offices to secure a fair settlement, the vote will be for liquidation by a large majority.

Answers Four Questions

Four questions were presented to Miss Gauthier today by The News. They are printed below together with her answers.

Q. Has Mr. Chumbley during the past few days advised against accepting the State board's recommendation to call off the strike? A. No. Mr. Chumbley left Southbridge suddenly last Friday.

Q. If Mr. Chumbley advised the Hamilton local to call off the strike would you do it? A. If he gave us some reason for calling off the strike we certainly would. I have more confidence in him than anybody.

Q. If you knew that continuing the strike would mean the permanent closing of the mill, would you still wish to maintain the strike? A. Surely I would.

Q. Have you any plan that might persuade the stockholders to vote against liquidation? A. No.

Statement for The News

Miss Gauthier said she wanted The News to print the following statement which she had written: "To the people of Southbridge:

"I want you to know it is not our desire and wish to be out on strike. We are out because we have been discriminated against and there has not been equal distribution of work. We sincerely hope that the directors will open the mill and put us all back to work as we were prior to the general strike (in September).

"I have received the following letter from Edward Cohen, counsellor at law:

Letter from Lawyer

"A client of mine has a claim against the Hamilton Woolen Co. for failure to deliver goods as per order. The excuse for non delivery is that a strike existed that was beyond their control. Would you please be good enough to give me such facts as you can which would show that the strike was due to the fault of the Hamilton Woolen Co. if it was not their fault at the beginning.

"If you can give me facts to show that it was their fault that it was not settled it would also be greatly appreciated.

"Thanking you for your early attention, I am.

"Very truly yours,

"Edward Cohen."

"The letter explains itself and many other statements of this kind have come to me. I am also giving a copy of my reply to Mr. Cohen and I hope the people of Southbridge will clearly understand that we don't want anything but justice."

Miss Gauthier Replies

Miss Gauthier sent the following reply to Mr. Cohen:

"Dear sir: We striking employees have always been most anxious to work and continue with our jobs. We have only asked the Hamilton Woolen Co. to equally distribute work among all employees and not to discriminate against any of our members. We presented 17 cases of discrimination at a public hearing. They were never denied by the management. The strike is continuing because the management evidently does not desire to state that it will equally divide work and not discriminate. The strike could be quickly settled if they would consent to this. We would like to work and fill our orders and stand ready to do so, 500 strong, if the Hamilton mill will do right. It's their fault and not ours if we are out on strike.

"Respectfully yours,

Jean Gauthier, President."

Confer With Chumbley

George Laplante, president of the Hamilton Protective association, today issued a plea that as many Southbridge civic and social organizations as possible send delegations to the stockholders' meeting to impress on those who will vote that the town will suffer a great blow if the Hamilton Co. is liquidated.

Mr. Laplante today revealed a conversation held between himself and Arthur Howarth, another official of the protective association, and John A. Chumbley, representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, late last week. He quoted Mr. Chumbley as having drawn up the following basis for settlement of the strike.

1. All people return to work as of prior to the strike.

2. Equal distribution of work between union and non-union employees.

3. No discrimination against union members because of their affiliation with the union.

4. Those guilty of violence, whether union members or not, be withheld from work until their cases are adjusted. These cases to be adjusted by a Federal board.

Doubts Plan Can Work

Mr. Chumbley said he doubted the management would accept the plan because it would mean that persons who were hired during the strike would have to be discharged.

Hamilton Financial Statement

The financial statement of the Hamilton Woolen Co., prepared for the stockholders by Price, Waterhouse and Co. of Boston, was announced today as follows:

January 14, 1935

To the Stockholders of the Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc.:

We have made an examination of the balance sheet of Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc., as at November 30, 1934, and of the condensed statement of profit and loss for the year ending on that date. In connection therewith we examined or tested accounting records and other supporting evidence of the company and obtained information and explanations from officers and employees of the company; we also made a general review of the accounting methods and of the operating income accounts, but we did not make a detailed audit of the transactions.

Subsequent to November 30, 1934, the company has discontinued its manufacturing operations and a special meeting of the stockholders has been called to be held on January 15, 1935, to consider the proposed liquidation of the business. The accompanying statements have, however, been prepared on a going concern basis without making any provisions for losses which may result from the proposed liquidation or for losses on sales commitments which were open at November 30, 1934.

In our opinion, based upon such examination and subject to the foregoing, the accompanying balance sheet and related condensed statement of profit and loss fairly present, in accordance with accepted principles of accounting consistently maintained by the company during the year under review, its position at November 30, 1934, and the results of its operations for the year.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO.

BALANCE SHEET — NOVEMBER 30, 1934

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash on hand and in banks	\$357,736.27		
Accounts receivable—less reserves	321,871.17		
Inventories at cost or market, which ever lower	\$1,614,550.42		
Less - Reserve	75,000.00	1,539,550.42	\$2,219,157.86
Cash Value of Life Insurance Policies and Dividends			53,118.29
Deferred Charges			25,753.32
Fixed Assets:			
Land, buildings, machinery and equipment at adjusted book value	\$1,249,387.28		
Less - Reserve for depreciation	594,679.70	654,707.59	
			\$2,952,737.05

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities:

Notes payable, banks	\$700,000.00		
Accounts payable — trade	26,217.48		
Accrued pay-roll and commissions	15,115.12		
Provision for State and Federal Excise taxes	13,600.00		
Provision for cost of finishing unshipped sales	38,163.83	\$793,096.43	
Capital Stock:			
Authorized — 37,030 shares of no par value.			
Issued and outstanding — 30,855 shares			1,542,750.00
Surplus:			
Balance, Dec. 1, 1933	\$1,022,913.05		
Less:			
Dividend paid July 16, 1934	\$30,855.00		
Net loss for year ending November 30, 1934	375,167.43	406,022.43	616,890.62
			\$2,952,737.05

NOTES:

The above balance sheet has been prepared on the basis of stating the assets without making any provision for losses which may result from the proposed liquidation or other disposition thereof.

No provision has been made for loss on sales commitments which were open at November 30, 1934, because it is impracticable to determine the probable amount of such loss.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1934

Net sales (less discounts and allowances)	\$3,101,192.43
Cost of sales, expenses and all other charges, except taxes deducted below (including provision for depreciation of \$69,337.80)	3,465,713.68
Loss before interest and taxes	\$364,521.25
Deduct:	
Interest received (net)	3,160.17
	\$361,361.08
Add:	
Provision for State and Federal Income and Excise Taxes	13,806.35
Net Loss for Year	\$375,167.43

MR. CHUMBLEY'S DECISION

EDITORIAL

If the Hamilton Woolen Co. stockholders vote to liquidate tomorrow, as they undoubtedly will, John A. Chumbley can report to his superiors in Washington he probably could have saved the situation, and concluded not to do it.

When the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration three weeks ago wired the officers of the Hamilton local asking them to call off the strike, and promising to use their efforts to make a fair settlement with the directors, Mr. Chumbley told Jean Gauthier to make no reply.

In Mr. Chumbley's opinion, the State board should not have sent the telegram without his approval. So he blocked the only available avenue to peace because of his personal difference with the State board.

The settlement plans proposed by the State board and Mr. Chumbley are almost identical. Either would have been acceptable to the Hamilton management before the mill closed. But before the mill closed Joseph Sylvia would not allow the union to accept the very reasonable plan of the State board, later advocated in its main essentials by Mr. Chumbley.

Tomorrow Southbridge will receive final confirmation of the loss of an important industry. Primarily it can blame Joseph Sylvia and Horace Riviere, whose ruthless methods forced the involuntary closing of the mill Dec. 11. However, Southbridge did not expect these men to spare the town any hardship or suffering, and is surprised at nothing they have done.

But what about Mr. Chumbley, bearing the glittering shield of the United States government and coming to us as the representative of our national administration in Washington?

He might have saved our mill for us, but a jurisdictional dispute with the State board hardened his heart and stayed his hand. Had he backed up our conscientious State agency, instead of opposing it, the story tomorrow might be entirely different.

Southbridge will remember Mr. Chumbley

A MILLION MILES AWAY

Our benevolent national government, spilling good things from its cornucopias of the "more abundant life," ought to take a closer look at the industrial situation in our part of New England.

The lifeless mill of the Hamilton Woolen Co. suggests anything but a more abundant life to the people of Southbridge. The ill-suppressed rancors in the Stevens Linen mill in Dudley do not promise well.

Now there is a new nut to crack in Stafford Springs, that fell right out of one of the horns of plenty of the New Deal. The Johnson Woolen Co.'s mill has been forced to close because of a strike called on account of the hiring of two girls who worked for a while in the late fall at the Hamilton mill.

While the administration leaders worry over unemployment and the mounting cost of relief the labor organizers and agitators—who claim to be the field evangelists of the New Deal—shut up mills and put workers in the streets.

What noble principle is served by the strike in Stafford Springs? The clear intent of the organizers is to keep the two girls from getting jobs in any mill if they can prevent it. Let them starve or go on relief.

It is all part of a fierce, vindictive struggle for power on the part of men without social conscience or any sense of responsibility. They are out to impose their will on industry, and they do not care what ruin results from their efforts to crush those who oppose them.

Washington is a beautiful and balmy city running over with saintly apostles of the new dispensation who fairly bubble with lovely abstractions. These latter-day saints believe all working people are exploited and oppressed, and all employers are hard, sordid men with stacks of money who could easily, if they would, double or triple their output and pay higher wages for shorter hours, just to accommodate. As for the organizers, the employers ought to welcome them to their mills and let them have their own fancy ways in managing the personnel.

On some days we get fairly fed up with Washington. The atmosphere there is remote and unreal and other-worldly. Our rulers are so inflated with pious abstractions that they have apparently no idea of what it feels like to be a little merchant or a jobless spinner in a small industrial town that has been blighted by a strike.

Pennsylvania avenue is a million miles away from Mill street, Southbridge.

Yesterday the owners of the Hamilton Woolen Company, whose plant is in Southbridge, Massachusetts, surrendered to the agitators who sowed dissension among its workers, intimidated its loyal men and made profitable operation impossible. They voted to close the mill. They sacrifice a business which was profitable in the past and, if undisturbed by outsiders, capable of earning profit in the future.

Today 1,100 men and women of Southbridge who have earned in the Hamilton plant their own livings and the livings of their dependents will begin to look for new jobs. Among them are men and women whose roots strike deep in Southbridge, men and women who have been loyal in their service. Among them, too are men and women who turned against the company because they were deluded by glib organizers from outside who preached the doctrines of socialism and of anarchy, using any philosophy that served their purpose of inculcating suspicion, ill-will and bad feeling. Some of these men and women have savings piled up against a rainy day. Their rainy day has come.

Tomorrow the Selectmen of Southbridge will be looking for means to feed and clothe and shelter certain of these men and women. The Selectmen's job will be difficult; the 1,100 are a fifth of the workers in the town; they include home owners and renters who hitherto have paid taxes, directly or indirectly. The Selectmen can seize and sell the homes of owners who do not pay their taxes, evicting the jobless, along with their children; but this is not a satisfactory way to collect taxes.

Day after tomorrow some of the owners of the company may be looking for shelter, may be looking for food. Commonly in such a corporation there are share owners whose all is in the company—widows, old men, youngsters who are beneficiaries of estates that hard work and self-denial built up. Some of them, too, may see their homes sold for taxes by the Selectmen of Southbridge.

But the agitators will not be able to see the full fruits of their victory. They will hurry off to some other town where fresh dupes await them to contribute to "war chests" or "defense funds" on which these interesting parasitical products of industrialism grow fat.

A BISHOP'S WARNING

Bishop James E. Cassidy of the Catholic diocese of Fall River is known far and wide as the faithful and devoted friend of labor. Many times he has interceded with employers in behalf of the textile workers in such cities as Fall River, Taunton and New Bedford. Today he is proving his interest in the welfare of labor more impressively than ever before. As a friend he is warning the workers against the course which their own leaders advocate. The news columns now announce that plans are under way for another great textile strike. The union officer who led the strike last fall says a greater strike in the spring is "inevitable."

The New Year message of Bishop Cassidy warns his people and the public against the blind acceptance of such leadership. He says: "The flying squadrons who boasted about closing factories and begging whole peoples may have their boasting unfortunately come true." And he continues: "Most of us are not enlisted in any flying squadron. We cannot come and go and flee when damage is done, leaving behind us closed mills and starving peoples and deserted villages. We must here abide until the last, and in the sinking of the ship we must sink also." As he was brought up in a textile community of Rhode Island and has known labor conditions all his life, he speaks with authority.

The bishop simply accepts facts as facts. What happened at Southbridge is bound to happen elsewhere if labor continues its present policies. He points to the great calamity which has come to Fall River, where a plant on which 10,000 persons depend for bread has closed down. He has no patience with the notion that these things are done merely for stage play. Southbridge now knows better. The bishop, administering the faithful wounds of a friend, points out that liquidation may become the rule if the unions persist in rule-or-ruin policies.

Strikes Force Woolen Firm To Close Down

Hamilton Co. Votes Liquidation, Making 1,000 Idle; Union 'Racketeers' Blamed

By The Associated Press

BOSTON, Jan. 15.—The stockholders of the Hamilton Woolen Company, of Southbridge, today voted to liquidate the affairs of the company by a ballot of 26,589 to 815. Of the 30,855 shares, 28,266 were represented at the meeting.

The decision to liquidate means unemployment for 1,000 textile workers, 20 per cent of the employable population of Southbridge.

The vote was taken despite the pleas of a delegation of forty residents of Southbridge, many of them with tears in their eyes and voices choked with emotion, who sought to dissuade the stockholders from closing out the business.

The plant had been affected by three strikes in four months and this situation had led to the recommendation of the board of directors to liquidate the affairs.

Besides drawing vivid word pictures of the unemployment and the relief problem facing the community of 16,000, representatives of the workers charged that the company was the victim of politics in connection with the attempt by the National Textile Labor Relations Board to settle the strike.

Charges of "racketeering" by the union organizers also echoed throughout the hearing room as residents and workers pleaded futilely to prevent liquidation.

An audit of the company's books disclosed that net assets of the company were \$2,219,157 and net liabilities, \$793,096 through November 30 when the mill was closed. It was stated that there were 30,855 shares of stock, but that no estimate could be made of the value of the stock, although it was usually placed at \$50.

DO STRIKES PAY?

(Boston Herald)

Several reliable agencies are busy computing the cost of last year's strikes. The National Industrial Conference board finds that in nine months more than 20,000,000 man-days of work were lost. The bureau of statistics of the Department of Labor computes the number of strikes in eight months to have been 996, the number of persons 1,128,000, and the man-days lost 11,128,000. The great textile strike came subsequent to the period covered by these figures. If the average number of man-days lost continued right through the year the grand total of time lost must have been close to 25,000,000 man-days, double what it was in 1933.

Money costs are hard to obtain. No facts for recent years are at hand. In 1919, a heavy strike year, an incomplete tabulation of wage losses showed a total of \$723,480,000 and of industrial losses other than those borne by labor of \$1,266,357,000, which would be equivalent to \$75 for each family in the United States.

Such figures raise anew the old question whether strikes pay. Does labor prosper most along with capital under industrial peace? Opinion is growing that strikes have retarded business recovery in this country. The number of strikes declined heavily over a period of years beginning with 1919; but of late the trend has been in the other direction, due in part to unrest caused by the guarantees which labor finds in NIRA. Heavy losses, severe drains on union treasuries, much actual privation, have been accepted as the price to be paid for industrial progress.

The public which in the end pays the price inclines these days to doubt the validity of such reasoning. Moreover, it often happens that labor goes without wages for 30 days or so in order to gain a small increase, say of 10 percent, with the result that total earnings for the year show a net decrease. Some time ago a careful calculation showed that only one strike in five won any wage increases at all. Most tragic of all the consequences of an ill-advised strike, illustrated by what now has happened at Southbridge, is the total destruction of an industry on which labor depends for its wages.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1935

THE STATE BOARD

The patiently persistent efforts of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration to open the Hamilton mill, which are even now going on in spite of yesterday's vote to liquidate, ought to be appreciated deeply in Southbridge.

There can be no doubt of the integrity of spirit and the impartiality of the three members of the board: Messrs. Fisher, Campos, and McNamara. The union leaders who resisted their efforts must now realize how much better they understood the gravity of the situation than most others, and how wise was their judgment that the first vital objective to be sought was the opening of the mill.

All of us are apt to lose some of our sense of values in the heat of conflict. We fix our minds upon what we regard as high principles, and declare defiantly we prefer to lose everything and die in our tracks rather than yield the breadth of a hair from the noble ideals we have set up for ourselves.

If the conflict is fierce enough we generally lose all we have fought for except the principles, and when we ruefully re-examine those principles in the midst of the wreckage lying all about us, we may conclude they were never really principles at all, but only stiff-necked notions quickly seized upon under the pressure of strife.

It is the business of the State board to prevent employers and working people from destroying themselves and each other. They believe in genuine, honest principles, but they know the best way to conserve them is through the processes of peace and reasonableness.

If the State board can succeed now in persuading the union leaders to call off the strike that can no longer avail anything, a real benefit will be accomplished. The way would then be cleared for efforts to get an entirely new group to make some use of the mill property.

THE NEWS is satisfied the mill will never be opened by anyone unless the labor trouble is ended finally and convincingly.

STATE INTERVENES IN WOOLEN STRIKE

By News Staff Writer

STAFFORD SPRINGS, Conn., Jan. 15 — Complete quietness reigned at the strike-closed Cyril Johnson Woolen Co. today as members of the grievance committee of Local 2035, United Textile Workers of America, and company officials met at the office of State Labor Commissioner Joseph M. Tone in Hartford.

The strike still was in effect today, the company not having receded from its position it would not discharge from its payroll two workers who had been employed by the Hamilton Woolen Co. in Southbridge, Mass., while a walk-out was effective there.

Francis Luce and David and Roland Mitchell, mill officials, and the grievance committee, Adlo Amprino, Valentine de Hulla and Frank Scott, attended the Hartford parley.

Picket lines were reduced considerably today as workers awaited the outcome of the conference.

COMPANY WILL

Directors Are Given Power To Wind Up Business By Margin of 26,589 to 815

State Board Holds Hope Concern Can be Saved; Meets Riviere

ACT CALLED 'FINAL'
Hamilton Lost \$375,167 In Fiscal Period Ending On Last Nov. 30

Special Correspondence

BOSTON, Jan. 15—The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration said today it had not given up its efforts to save the Hamilton Woolen Co. in Southbridge despite the overwhelming vote to liquidate by stockholders.

Edward Fisher, chairman of the board, spent the entire morning in consultation with Horace Riviere of Manchester, N. H., fourth vice-president of the U. T. W. A., regarding abandonment of the strike which resulted in the death of the 107-year-old concern.

By News Staff Writer

BOSTON, Jan. 15—By a vote of 26,589 to 815 the stockholders of the Hamilton Woolen Co. today authorized the directors to proceed with liquidation of the company "without limitation."

Asked after the meeting if that action was final, Richard Lennihan, president, said, "Yes, that is final."

About 90 persons attended the meeting, which was held in Room L of the Boston Chamber of Commerce building. Among those present were a number of stockholders who preferred to cast their own votes rather than to vote by proxy, the directors of the company, the Southbridge Board of Selectmen, three representatives of the Manufacturers and Merchants association, 15 members of the Hamilton Protective association and 12 newspaper men.

Union is Absent

No members of the Hamilton local of the U. T. W. A. attended. At the conclusion of today's meeting, announcement was made the stockholders would convene again Feb. 15 for their annual meeting. The session will be held in the same room where today's meeting took place.

The decision to liquidate was carried in four motions which instructed the directors to sign all papers and handle all details. A meeting of the directors will be held in the near future, when it is understood Mr. Lennihan will be designated liquidating officer.

After the vote to liquidate had been announced, Daniel P. Bernheim, arose and introduced himself as president of the M. and M. He said Southbridge is much concerned that so many persons have been thrown out of work.

"No labor trouble in Southbridge" has been our slogan in the past," he said. "We have lost that slogan now but we do want somebody to take over the mill soon who will be able to put our people back to work."

Wants Mill Kept Intact

Mr. Bernheim told the stockholders he hoped the mill would be kept intact in order to make easier the efforts of Southbridge to get it running again.

"You know the directors have a very grave responsibility to their stockholders," Mr. Lennihan said in reply. "The directors, however, will not change their attitude toward Southbridge. You may rest assured every director will wish to do anything possible to help get the people back to work, so far as is consistent with their responsibility to the stockholders."

The meeting was called to order at 11 a. m. by Mr. Lennihan. Seated at his left at the speakers' table were Thomas N. Perkins, a partner in the law firm of Ropes, Gray, Boyden and Perkins, and John R. Quarles, a member of the same law firm, who was elected temporary clerk by the stockholders.

Situation Unchanged

Mr. Lennihan read the financial statement of the company which showed a total loss for the year ending Nov. 30, 1934, of \$375,167.13. He then read the statements of the directors issued Dec. 24 in which a history of the strike was recited and liquidation was recommended.

There had been no change in the situation that warranted any change in the attitude of the directors, he said.

"Our judgment is that we should proceed to liquidate the company," he added.

Clinton P. Biddle, a director and assistant dean of the Harvard School of Business Administration, arose and read the four motions calling for liquidation. The motions were seconded.

Mr. Lennihan then called for discussion.

George Grant, publisher of the Southbridge Press, arose from a seat in the middle of the room and said he had come to the meeting as a stockholder as well as a citizen of the town.

Asks Delay

"Eight years ago," Mr. Grant said, "when the Hamilton Woolen Co. had arrived at a crisis almost as significant as this one. I came to a stockholders' meeting and arose with a feeling of trepidation. I have that feeling to an even greater degree now."

"We have reached a state of affairs in the native town which I love that requires examination which has not yet been given. Eight years ago we were able to frustrate the effort of those who wished to liquidate the company. We would like to do this now."

"The company has been managed by such able men there is no good reason why they should not be successful in the future."

"I don't think we should take any final steps toward liquidation today. We ought to take more time and have another meeting."

Cites Outsiders

"We have seen things in Southbridge we never dreamed of before. A handful of strikers have broken down operation of our mill. Ninety-five percent of them would be glad to return to work if they were not dominated by outsiders who would unhesitatingly sacrifice Southbridge, or even Boston, to serve their ends. Workers of the third and fourth generation were employed in the mill

when it closed—happy, peaceable, law-abiding people. If they are left without employment now they will be thrown on the world as helpless as children."

Visibly shaken by emotion, Mr. Grant sat down.

"I would like to say a few words for the workers," said George Laplante, the next speaker. Mr. Laplante is head of the Hamilton Protective association. "These people should be considered before you vote to liquidate. I see no reason why the risks they ran and the insults they suffered should be forgotten now. Should 700 people be sacrificed for the sake of 300?"

20 Percent Hit

Valmore P. Tetreault, speaking for the Board of Selectmen, said, "We had no labor trouble in Southbridge before September. We hope the stockholders will take into account the loyalty of their workers and of the people of our town. Twenty percent of the workers of Southbridge are involved in the closing down of the Hamilton Woolen Co. We hope if you cannot continue operations at present you at any rate will postpone final action."

Mr. Lennihan then said, "Mr. Grant, I want to say to you personally, because we are very good friends, our directors since last October have given serious consideration to these problems. The workers and people of Southbridge have been first in the minds of the directors."

Then turning to Mr. Laplante. Mr. Lennihan said, "The difficulty is, George, one of the big functions of the Hamilton Woolen Co. has been to weave cloth. If we cannot get weavers and loomfixers to work we cannot run the mill. I want to congratulate you and other members of your association on the way you have conducted yourselves through all this trouble."

Union Called 'Racket'

Harry Eler another member of the protective association, told the directors a group of gangsters came to Southbridge and made a racket of the union. He blamed the Town government for moderation in its handling of the strike.

Arthur Howarth, also speaking for the protective association, said "The Hamilton mill is being sacrificed for reasons of politics. A man came to us from Washington who was supposed to be impartial. He has, however, taken the strikers' side in preventing peace."

"The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration," Mr. Howarth continued, "had a promise from union officials to call off the strike. Miss Jean Gauthier said in The Southbridge News that if Mr. Chumbley advised calling off the strike it would be done, but Chumbley did not advise her to do it."

"We have sent telegrams to Washington asking for his recall. If we had time to work without John A. Chumbley we could get a peaceable settlement."

Hamilton Stock at 45

An analysis of the stockholders' vote shows that of the 26,589 votes favoring liquidation 2,199 were voted in person, 24,390 by proxy; of the 815 votes against liquidation 731 were voted in person, 84 by proxy.

The Hamilton stock is currently listed at \$45. On the company's balance sheet as a going

concern the net liquid assets amount to \$46 per share. In liquidation it is impossible to tell how much each share will depreciate in value.

The company's financial statement for the fiscal year which ended Nov. 30, 1934, was read at the meeting and showed the firm had lost three-eighths of a million dollars from Nov. 30, 1933.

The statement, prepared by Price, Waterhouse and Company, Boston auditors, made no provision for losses which may result from liquidation or from sales commitments which were open when the fiscal year ended.

\$375,167.43 Loss

Members of the auditing firm, in fixing the year's net loss at \$375,167.43, said they had made their examination of the books on the basis that the local company was a going concern.

Assets of the Hamilton mill were set at \$2,952,737.05. Current assets included \$357,736.27 as cash on hand or in banks; \$321,871.17 as accounts receivable, less reserves, and \$1,614,550.42 as inventories at cost or market, whichever was lower. From the \$1,614,550.42 was deducted a \$75,000 reserve.

Fixed assets, including land, buildings, machinery and equipment at adjusted book value, were carried at \$1,249,387.28, which was subjected to a reduction of \$594,679.70, the reserve for depreciation.

Current liabilities included notes payable to banks totaling \$700,000 and other items which brought the sum to \$793,096.43. Capital stock, of which 30,855 shares of the authorized total of 37,080 are issued and outstanding, was valued at \$1,542,750.

Dividend Last July

From the Dec. 1, 1933, surplus of \$1,022,913.05 was deducted a dividend of \$30,855 paid July 16, 1934, and the loss of the fiscal year, \$375,167.43, which left \$616,890.62.

The condensed statement of profit and loss showed net sales, less discounts and allowances, of \$3,101,192.43.

The cost of sales, expenses and all other charges, except taxes, was \$3,465,713.68, leaving a loss before interest and taxes of \$364,521.25. Interest and taxes brought the loss to the final figure of \$375,167.43.

LIQUIDATE

VOTE TO LIQUIDATE STRIKE-TORN MILL

Hamilton Stockholders Vote
26,589 to 815 Over Entreaties
of Stockbridge Residents.

MAIN INDUSTRY OF TOWN

Leaders Join Workers in Plea to
Save 1,100 Jobs—'Outside
Organizers' Blamed.

By The Associated Press.
BOSTON, Jan. 15.—The pleas
and tears of Southbridge workers
and merchants today failed to save
the jobs of 1,100 employees of the
Hamilton Woolen Company, one-
fifth of the community's employa-
ble population, as stockholders of
the corporation overwhelmingly
voted for liquidation, 26,589 shares
to 815.

"These people will be thrown upon
the world helpless as babes," George
W. Grant, resident of Southbridge
and a stockholder, said tearfully.

After declaring that the com-
munity had been built "in great
measure by the company," and that
adjacent towns with an aggregate
population of from 40,000 to 50,000
would be affected, Mr. Grant begged
for further consideration.

He declared that after "mingling"
with the workers, he knew that 95
per cent would return if not influ-
enced by "outside organizers who
would sacrifice Southbridge or even
Boston, to obtain their own ends."
Mr. Grant was so moved that he
was unable to proceed.

The plant affected was closed per-
manently in November after the
third strike in four months led the
directors to recommend liquidation.

Richard Lennihan, president, re-
plied to the entreaties by saying the
decision had been reached after de-
liberation, business had been de-
stroyed and that to continue "would
endanger the safety of the work-
ers."

Besides picturing unemployment
and increased relief burdens fac-
ing Southbridge, representatives of
the workers charged that the com-
pany was the victim of politics in
connection with an attempt by a
Federal mediator to settle the
strike.

Charges of "racketeering" by
union organizers also were made by
some residents. Workers with tear-
stained faces described the plight
of the community bereft of its main
wage and tax revenue.

Mr. Lennihan permitted the futile
entreaties to be offered after Clin-
ton P. Biddle, a director, moved to
liquidate.

Arthur Howarth, a foreman at the
mill, declared that John A. Chum-
bley, a mediator sent from Wash-
ington to help settle the strike, "did
everything from the point of view
of the strikers" despite the fact
that it was the "loyal workers"
who sought his intervention.

Mr. Chumbley attempted to settle
the difficulties last month after the
third strike had been declared by
the United Textile Workers of
America Union.

After the vote was taken today
and a meeting of stockholders called
for Feb. 15, Daniel P. Bernheim,
president of the Manufacturers and
Merchants Association of South-
bridge, pleaded with the directors
to preserve the physical properties
of the mill.

Mr. Bernheim said the community
might be able to interest a buyer
while machinery was in good con-
dition and the mill ready to operate.

The company's books disclosed
net assets of \$2,219,157 and net li-
abilities of \$793,096 through Nov. 30
when the mill was closed. Mr. Len-
nihan, who read the report, stated
that there were 30,855 shares of
stock. No estimate could be made,
he said, of the value of the stock,
but explained that it was usually
placed at \$50.

Hamilton Woolen Strike Provides Enough Graphic Incidents for a Great Novel

By the Editor

Yesterday we reached the final
climax of the Greek tragedy that
has been unfolding before the
eyes of the people of Southbridge
since Wednesday, Sept. 5. How-
ever, there is no disposition here
to linger on the tragic note. Rath-
er there is a determination to go
on and write a better story for
the future.

Eschylus perfected the dram-
atic form which set out with a
single incident or set of circum-
stances and proceeded inexorably
to a tragic conclusion. The char-
acters in the drama were trapped
in consequence of the initial cir-
cumstances, and no efforts they
could make on discovering the
pity and horror of their plight
could help them avert the final
disaster that surely awaited them.

Today we cry out that life need
not be like that; we exclaim that
reasonable beings can usually
save themselves if they will only
take thought and act wisely. We
must cling to such beliefs or else
abandon hope.

The determining preliminary
factor in our Greek drama was
the invasion of Southbridge by
flying squadrons on Wednesday,
Sept. 5, and according to the clas-
sic tradition all that has happened
since was bound to happen. The
struggles of the Hamilton man-
agement to keep the mill going,
the efforts of Selectmen and the
State Board of Conciliation and
Arbitration to restore peace, and
the pleas of our townspeople in
Boston yesterday, all were as un-
availing as chaff in the wind.

The ancient Greeks based their
fatalism on the belief heathen
gods decreed the fates of men,
and that there was no escaping
their mandates. We do not believe
that sort of thing any more, but
we cannot help thinking of mal-
evolent forces that have taken the
place of heathen gods in the back-
ground of our own drama.
The enactment of another Greek
tragedy on our stage is to detect
the ominous preliminary circum-
stances in time to stop them de-
cisively. This may apply not only
to flying squadrons, but also to
conditions which might prepare
the way for them.

Let us drop that figure and
consider another. It has been sug-
gested an excellent book could
be written about the struggle of
the past four and a half months
in Southbridge: perhaps a novel
containing a fictionalized account
of our troubles.

The climax of the story came
on Dec. 10 and 11. Two important
things happened on the first day:
A crowd of 150 strikers demon-
strated before police headquarters
in Southbridge, and in Boston the
directors of the Hamilton Wool-
en Co. reached a firm conclusion
to go out of business. On the se-
cond day the mill closed.

The News has known ever
since Dec. 11 the directors would
stick to that conclusion, but has
hoped for some miracle that
might persuade them to recon-
sider. Abandonment of the strike
and the adoption of a conciliatory
attitude in its place might have
worked the miracle. Who can tell
now?

The public hearing conducted
by the State board in Town hall
Dec. 14 would provide an inter-
esting chapter for our book. Two
girls met silently on the steps
just before the meeting. They had
been warm friends before the
strike. One had continued in her
work because her family needed
her earnings. The other had been
elected president of the union.

without seeking the position.

The one who was president had
told the other after her election
they could not meet as friends for
a while; she had been instructed
to cease all association with those
who for any reason desired to
work in the mill.

As Jean walked up the steps
she saw Genevieve waiting at one
side. Who can guess the tug at
her heart as she saw the tears
welling from Genevieve's eyes?

The public hearing was a clam-
orous affair; the air was charged
with tension and excitement. Who
can forget the tremendous ap-
plause that marked the entrance
of Richard Lennihan and his as-
sociates, from loyal workers who
had lost their jobs through the
closing of the mill, after they had
risked everything to help carry
on?

The central figures of the hear-
ing were Joseph Sylvia and Rich-
ard Lennihan. Proceeding like a
lawyer, the union organizer called
witnesses to tell of 17 cases of al-
leged discrimination. There was a
dispute over the details of some
of the charges, and nothing was
made quite clear. Mr. Sylvia as-
serted he was acting in accord
with the wishes of "our noble
President" but when someone
asked him who called the third
strike in violation of a pledge
given the Selectmen he replied
hotly it was no one's business who
called the strike.

The hearing was held to fix re-
sponsibility for the strike, but
that responsibility has not yet
been placed by the State board.

A brief but poignant chapter in
our book could be given to Mit-
chell Kazmiroski, the loyal weav-
er who found life pressing down
too hard on him when the mill
was forced to close, and who
hanged himself in the attic of his
little home on the morning after.

Then comes John A. Chumbley,
field agent of the National Textile
Labor Board, who deserves a few
pages for the part he attempted
to play. Mr. Chumbley appeared
in Southbridge just in time for
the public hearing, when Richard
Lennihan had said it was now too
late to do anything more.

Mr. Chumbley came here full
of good intentions and good
words. He prevailed upon the
strikers to withdraw their de-
mands for a closed shop and in-
creased wages, and to ask only
for a chance to go back to work
without discrimination. He took
the position men convicted of vi-
olence had no further claim on the
company. Certainly that was all
very reasonable.

Lesson for Town

There may be a little lesson for
our town in what took place in
Mr. Chumbley's case. The stranger
who appears on an important mis-
sion is bound to be influenced,
even if he doesn't realize it, by
the reception he is given and the
attention that is paid him.

The union members received Mr.
Chumbley with open arms, even if
he did tell them of their mistakes
and request Messrs. Sylvia and
Dickens to stay away. They invit-
ed him to their Christmas party
and let him see they trusted him.

Few other doors were opened
to him. He was given an audience
by a high executive of another
company who received him pleas-
antly and engaged with him in a
general discussion of industrial
relations. Mr. Chumbley was
greatly pleased with this inter-
view, and said afterwards: "There
will never be any labor trouble in
that plant as long as that man is
there."

Influenced by Attention

The News believes Mr. Chum-
bley erred in advising the union
against accepting the proposal of
the State board, and has said so.
Perhaps he didn't perceive the
gravity of the situation—the dif-
ference between this strike and
one in which a management wish-
es to continue in business. Per-
haps his judgment was influenced
in a human way by the varying
degrees of attention paid him. He
gave no attention at all to the ma-
jority of workers in the Protective
association, and that was an error
on his part, possibly due to an in-
sufficient understanding of the
situation.

The scene of our final chapter
is a sunny room high up in the
Chamber of Commerce building in
Boston, where about 90 men and
women met yesterday to receive
news of the liquidation of the
Hamilton Woolen Co.

Looks Very Grave

At one end of the room was a
long table. Sitting in the center
was President Richard Lennihan,
looking very grave. At his right
was John R. Quarles, a young
lawyer who was to be clerk of
the meeting in place of Loring
Young, who has been missing
from the story for several weeks.
At Mr. Lennihan's left was the
elderly and distinguished Boston
attorney, Thomas N. Perkins, who
has recently been advising the
company in place of Mr. Young.

It was clear everything had
been arranged in advance. Clinton
P. Biddle, a director, and assist-
ant dean of the Harvard School
of Business Administration, had
been designated to offer the mo-
tions that would lead to the dis-
solution of the company.

Representatives of the Boston
papers were much moved by the
pathos of the pleas of Southbridge
people that the company take
heart and go on. It was all so fu-
tile. The strike and the losses run-
ning to more than \$375,000 in
one year had settled the issue.

Pleads for Town

No one can forget the talk made
by George Grant, who has grown
gray in the service of his commu-
nity through his newspaper, The
Press, or his plea for "my native
town, which I love." Or that of
George Laplante, who spoke sim-
ply and well for the men and
women who had risked their all
for the company. Or that of Val-
more Tetreault, who presented the
case for the Selectmen.

In the final minutes, Daniel F.
Bernheim of the Manufacturers
and Merchants association, offered
a tactful and effective plea that
the plant be kept intact for pos-
sible sale to another operator.

"We'll do the best we can for
Southbridge," was Mr. Lennihan's
final word of reassurance.

The rest of the story is yet to
be written

Former Hamilton Employees Go Out of Town for Jobs; Find Wages are Lower, Work Harder

S. News Jan. 16 '34

250 Secure Positions With ERA and in Textile Mills Elsewhere

MANY DISSATISFIED

Laplane Scores Reports U. S. Did Not Receive Chumbley Protests

With the directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. definitely ordered by their stockholders to liquidate the 107-year-old concern, the 1,000 former employees, faced with the necessity of discovering a new means of livelihood, are turning their faces out of town to find work.

A survey conducted today indicated that between 210 and 260 workers, mostly men, already had obtained employment here or in other communities and that efforts were being made, both by the Hamilton local of the United Textile Workers of America and the Hamilton Protective association, to secure work for others of their members.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the local, estimated that between 150 and 200 men who are union members have obtained new jobs, either with the ERA or in textile mills in other manufacturing centers.

60 Find Positions

The protective association has located employment for 60 of its members and hopes before the organization becomes defunct to find places for its entire membership of 700.

Workers, the survey showed, have gone to Lawrence, Farnumville, Webster, Fisherville, Centerville, and Franklin in this State; Pawtucket and Olneyville, R. I.; Moosup, Conn.; Passaic, N. J., and to plants in New Hampshire towns.

The office staff at the Hamilton mill and its entire supervisory production corps have been retained intact until now and few of the foremen and other officials have sought positions elsewhere although they have received offers from other concerns.

Receive Lower Wages

Richard Lennihan, president of the company, who is in New York today, is expected to arrive in Southbridge tomorrow, when some decision possibly will be made about disbanding the personnel.

Mr. Lennihan will be in Southbridge for only a short while and then will leave here for a period of two months.

Former Hamilton employees who return to their homes here week-ends from out-of-town plants report wages are three to 10 cents an hour lower than those paid by the local firm prior to its closing Dec. 11. They also indicated that in some instances they have to work as many as 11 sides, in contrast to the load of four or five which evoked a union protest here.

From other sources, it was learned many who have departed from town are dissatisfied with living conditions and would return gladly if the mill would reopen.

Expects Mill to Open

The vote of the stockholders yesterday came as a blow to Miss Gauthier, who said she had not expected the action. She hinted there was more than labor trouble behind the closing, a statement she did not elaborate.

She said she felt, however, there still was hope the mill would resume operations, possibly under new management or under new ownership.

She based her contention on the modern and costly equipment owned by the Hamilton, which, she explained, would be attractive to a purchaser.

The union head said she expected U. T. W. A. locals throughout the State would continue to pour relief funds into Southbridge to aid needy strikers. She said the relief money had been adequate to care for all exigencies which have occurred.

Free Haircuts

Miss Gauthier added that five local barbers, Euclide Roy, William Fiset, the Bastien barber-shop in the Flats, the Tetreault shop in Globe Village, and Victor Robichaud, have agreed to give haircuts to strikers without charge.

She indicated that if the company management, at the time when the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration asked that the strike be abandoned, had issued a statement it would cooperate in re-opening the mill, the situation would have been different. She said the union would have voted to cancel the walkout if the company had shown any trace of a helpful spirit.

Miss Gauthier said she realized the strikers were being blamed in many quarters for conditions now existing here but she insisted much of the violence during the early days of the strike period had been caused by out-of-town persons.

She pointed to the relative quiet which has prevailed during the past four or five weeks.

Women Have Problem

She said all 17 loomfixers who were members of the union had obtained new jobs and that many of the weavers who went out on strike were seen no longer at meetings, having secured positions.

The principal problem confronting the union was the finding of work for women employees, she said.

The union head revealed that two mills in the Blackstone valley, at Fisherville and Farnumville, planned to start operating night shifts shortly and said she expected many local union members would get jobs there. She said the plants were organized strongly by union forces.

She indicated much of the union work in locating employment had been focused on the finding of work for men who are heads of families.

Miss Gauthier said the problem of getting jobs was made difficult by the fact that in out-of-town communities preference is given to men, notably in the weave sheds, a situation which did not prevail here.

Will 'Sit and Wait'

She reiterated her statement the union would be willing to go back to work on a friendly basis with workers who had been employed by the Hamilton company prior to the general strike of last September but added the local would not tolerate "strike-breakers" imported later.

Regarding her own plans for the future, Miss Gauthier said, "I'll just have to sit and wait."

She indicated she felt it was her duty to give every possible aid to union members in their efforts to find jobs before she considered her own problems.

Members of the protective association, which is headed by George Laplane, an employee of the company for 20 years, were incensed today by published reports from Washington that no protest concerning the activities

of John A. Chumbley, representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board who was sent here to attempt to mediate the strike, had been forwarded to the national capital.

Show Wires and Answers

A group of workers came to The News office today with six telegrams they had sent to Washington protesting against Mr. Chumbley.

Answers indicated the officials addressed had either shuttled the issue along to another Federal board or merely evaded a concrete reply, a perusal of the replies showed.

Other telegrams and messages of protest against the government representative also are known to have been sent to Washington.

Mr. Laplane, asked if he felt any hope the mill would reopen, answered:

"Positively not, the way things look now."

He said he realized that unless some change had occurred in the situation, the stockholders would vote to liquidate. He attributed \$200,000 of the \$375,167.43 loss of the company for the fiscal year which ended Nov. 30, 1934, to the strikes at the plant.

Praises Management

Mr. Laplane claimed there was no valid reason for the strikes. He said employees had worked hand-in-hand for years with only the small personal disputes which are bound to occur in any company which has a payroll of 1,000 persons.

"You couldn't have found a better place anywhere to work insofar as labor conditions were concerned," he said. "Workers and management alike were willing to contribute to ease the suffering of any employee."

He attributed a large portion of the present difficulty to a group within the union which feared it would never return to work if the strike were abandoned. He said the group was in a dominant position and exercised its will over the local.

Mr. Laplane said the association was caring for its needy cases wherever possible.

He told of one family of a father, a mother and six children which was in dire straits because of the shutdown. He said the family previously had maintained itself on the earnings from the Hamilton Woolen Co. The father worked at the mill for about 10 years, he said, and now had to accept relief from the Town. The amount of aid necessarily was small, he said, and insufficient for the entire group of eight persons.

Mother in Hospital

He said the mother was in a hospital, thus compelling the father to remain at home to care for the children and barring him from any effort to seek work elsewhere.

"Is it any wonder that family is discouraged?" Mr. Laplane asked.

He told of another family, a mother and daughter, the younger of whom formerly was employed by the company.

The daughter is middle-aged and doesn't know where to turn for another job. Mr. Laplane said she was approaching a period in life when employers are unwilling to add her to the payroll, preferring youth.

"Persons who have worked at the mill for 40 or 50 years cannot turn at a minute's notice and start all over again in another place," Mr. Laplane said in indicating the suffering among members of his association.

Meetings will be held today by the association and the union to determine their future courses, leaders indicated.

Grievances Fabricated

Mr. Laplane, explaining the situation at the Hamilton mill at the time of the general strike, said employees were opposed to the walkout and the invasion of Southbridge by flying squadrons. One worker, a former union miner, had advised against unionization of the mill and apparently his advice was to be followed. Several talks by organizers, however, gave some of the employees the idea they had "grievances," which was the beginning of the end.

The association president revealed one worker had been threatened with eviction by his landlord because he could not pay his rent. Mr. Laplane said the association would take every step possible to restrain the house owner from adopting such a procedure.

Joseph St. George, owner of a grocery store in Globe Village and 30 tenements which are occupied mostly by former Hamilton employees, said rents already were beginning to lag although he expressed no intention of instituting eviction proceedings.

Values Will Depreciate

He said rents formerly had been met promptly.

He added that closing of the mill would cut real estate values in Southbridge sharply, especially as workers depart to other towns. He said property values would depreciate if there were no buyers and that taxes would have to be unpaid if there were no tenants.

Mr. St. George said some of his tenants already had secured work elsewhere and although none of them has moved, it was problematical whether they would remain in Southbridge.

He said he could give only limited credit at his store, which had shown a marked decrease in business since last September. He employs three clerks in the store and said he disliked the thought of letting any of them go.

Little Effect Yet

The Board of Selectmen said little effect had been felt by the Town in welfare costs yet although the closing probably would be felt later as savings become exhausted.

The board said it felt it had done everything possible to avert the closing of the mill.

Many Seek ERA Jobs

Emergency Relief administrative heads, however, have been deluged by hundreds of applications for work. Needy cases are being investigated and persons put to work as rapidly as possible. The payroll roster has jumped from 255 a month ago to 369 at the end of the last earning period.

An ERA sewing project for between 30 and 40 women is expected to relieve some of the distress in the female population. The project is scheduled tentatively to get under way Jan. 25.

About 50 of the former Hamilton workers and the places where they are employed are the following:

Go to Lawrence

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hardman, Lee Smith and Henry Chace, Washington mills, Lawrence; Arthur Whiteoak, Alfred Lamontagne, David Simpson Jr., Yvonne Gendron, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Leblanc, Henry Dugas, Leo Martin and Peter Tavernier, Pacific mills, Lawrence;

Frederick Smith, Thomas Firth and Joseph Reeves, Wood mills, Lawrence; Felix Lemoine, Joseph Ouellette and Leo Morin, Centerville; Richard Cooper, Spencer Worsted Co., Pawtucket, R. I.; Leslie Turner and Ernest Marchessault, Botany Worsted Co., Passiac, N. J., and Paul Vermiere, Farnumville.

Members of the protective assoc-

clation who attended the stockholders meeting in Boston yesterday were Mr. Laplante, Arthur Howarth, John Shea, Joseph Misiaszek, Romeo Rapanault, Adolard Chamberlain, Aristide Asselin, Donald Fitzgerald, Herman Langevin, Edward Tetreault, Fred Bourassa, Ernest McDonald, Roland Lavallee, Alfred Langevin and Harry Eler.

Text of Motions

The text of the four motions introduced and passed by a margin of 26,589 to 815 at yesterday's stockholders' meeting were as follows:

"VOTED: That the business and affairs of this corporation be liquidated and wound up; that its liabilities and obligations be paid, discharged or provided for; and that its assets then remaining be distributed pro rata upon its common stock as a dividend in liquidation of said stock.

"VOTED: That the board of directors be and hereby is authorized to determine all matters incidental to liquidating and winding up the affairs of the corporation, including without limitation the manner in which existing commitments of the corporation shall be fulfilled or discharged, the manner in which the assets, real and personal, of the corporation shall be sold or disposed of or otherwise liquidated, the terms and conditions of such sale or other disposition and the considerations to be received therefor; and to designate and authorize the officers of the corporation or any of them to carry into effect this vote and the foregoing vote, and any action taken pursuant thereto.

"VOTED: That the president the vice-president, the treasurer and the clerk of this corporation be and they are and each of them singly is hereby authorized in the name and behalf of this corporation, at such time or times as the officer or officers so acting shall deem advisable, to take all such steps and to execute and deliver all such papers as to the officer or officers so acting shall seem necessary, proper or desirable, to accomplish the dissolution of this corporation, either by petition to be filed in the Supreme Judicial court or in the Superior court or by application for dissolution by Legislative act or in any other way permitted by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"VOTED: That the board of directors, the president, the chairman of the board of directors, the vice-president, the treasurer, and the clerk of this corporation, present and future, for the time being in office, be and they are, and each of them singly is, hereby authorized to take all such steps and to execute, seal with the corporate seal if deemed desirable, acknowledge if deemed desirable, and deliver all such deeds, other instruments of conveyance or of assignment and transfer, and other papers as to the officer or officers so acting or executing such instruments shall seem necessary, proper or desirable to carry into effect the votes passed at this meeting or any one or more of them; and the taking of any such action or the execution of any such instruments by the officers aforesaid or any of them shall be conclusive evidence that the action so taken or the instruments so executed were at the time of taking such action or executing such instruments deemed by such officer or officers to be necessary, proper or desirable for the purposes aforesaid, and that the action so taken or the instruments so executed were authorized by this vote."

1,100 Hunting New Jobs As Textile Plant Quits

Bay State Factory Abandoned After Series of Strikes

SOUTHBIDGE, Mass., Jan. 16 (AP).—Hundreds of Southbridge textile workers drifted toward other mill centers today in search of jobs. They were a part of the 1,100 employees of the Hamilton Woolen Company left jobless yesterday when stockholders voted liquidation of the century-old plant.

Scores stayed in Southbridge to live on meager savings accumulated in years of steady employment. A few, foremen and highly skilled workers, already have obtained work in Lawrence and other centers. Some are on the E. R. A. Many more sought Federal aid.

The town has made no effort to place the jobless, mainly because few believed until the final moment that liquidation would be a reality. They looked upon the December recommendation of the company's directors as a threat which would never be realized.

The directors recommended liquidation after the third strike at the Hamilton mill in four months. The stockholders, at a meeting in Boston yesterday, voted 26,589 to 815 to adopt the recommendation.

Jan. 17, 1935

THE BOSTON HERALD

Our Mail Bag

Excessive Labor Demands Threaten Entire Country

To the Editor of The Herald:

S. G. Lane's letter in The Herald today on the ERA grant of \$19,000 for January to take care of unemployed mill employes in Southbridge is decidedly pat. Hamilton Woolen Company's stockholders have this day voted to go out of business permanently. This deprives the town of its second largest industry. A majority of the employes are blameless, having incurred the opprobrium of being "scabs" to maintain their legal right to work. But what an outrage that the taxpayers must also support the bolshevist brawlers who forced the management to close the plant! Not content with pestering the loyal Southbridge workers even since the mill suspended operation, the union has just forced a walkout in nearby Stafford Springs because two of the Hamilton employes who refused to strike are now working there.

But all this is only a small taste of the coming Roosevelt prosperity. Francis J. Gorman, in a recent address in Webster, predicted the greatest strike yet in the textile industry "as soon as the birds chirp in the spring," and declared he favored it. The Railway Labor Executives Association on Saturday, after hearing Federal Co-ordinator Eastman warn them that the proposed six-hour day with no wage cut would wreck the roads, united in declaring: "The statement . . . will have no effect whatever on the legislative program of the railway labor organization." Their program has been introduced into Congress, and every possible effort will be directed toward securing its enactment into law during the present session. The American Federation of Labor has served its ultimatum on Congress for a compulsory 30-hour week—which, in the opinion of ex-NRA Gen. Johnson (no stand-patter), would mean a business slump vastly worse than any yet experienced.

Do these big unions intend to enforce their demands, in case of a recalcitrant Congress or presidential veto, by general strikes? Probably—while the striking is good! They have plenty of wild demagogues and pink reformers of the universe in legislative and executive posts to take their part. And then, there is President Roosevelt's promise that "in his land of plenty nobody shall starve"—even a downtrodden proletarian striking \$10 a day, a five-day week and six hours' work!

"They can't touch us—Uncle Sam is with us!" read a banner carried by a flying squadron of trouble-makers in the Carolinas during the general textile strike. And the administration scores industry for its timidity!

L. J. SPALDING.

Webster, Jan. 15

WILL 7A BE ABROGATED?

(American Wool and Cotton Reporter)

We believe that President Roosevelt, himself, is about ready to take the labor situation in hand and make some much needed decisions in the way of straightening out the present situation to diminish the terroristic, dominating, destructive influence that the professional labor leaders now hold.

The country, as a whole, has an incomplete idea and understanding of the labor situation. We read in the newspapers that labor wants this or labor wants that. We haven't a true understanding of the situation. During the big textile strike of a few weeks ago the labor leaders—the officials of the United Textile Workers—asserted to the President himself and to the Federal labor commissioners, to Miss Perkins, Secretary of Labor, and to the code authorities, and to Congress, that something like 500,000 textile mill operatives were members of the textile labor unions. These officials of the U. T. W. claimed they were the chosen leaders of the textile operators through whom the collective bargaining should be carried on, and they swore to it a vast majority of the carders, spinners, weavers, and other textile workers were dues-paying members of the unions.

Then when the American Federation of Labor convention brought out the actual figures of union membership in the great textile industry, it was discovered that only 37,000 mill operatives out of nearly one million workers were actually members of the unions. In other words, less than 4 percent of those cotton and wool mill operatives had accepted the American Federation of Labor organization—the U. T. W.—as their leaders and as their collective bargaining agents. And with that minimum membership as a known fact, the administration still continues to allow these professional labor leaders to carry on their destructive

actions. We know that there are nearly one million textile operatives. The United States census gives us that figure. We know that there are only 37,000 textile union members—the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor gives us that figure. It is not only ridiculous—it is wicked—that a few men posing as labor leaders, as officials of the U. T. W. affiliated with the A. F. of L., have been allowed to terrorize the textile industry as they have terrorized it through the last year and as they are continuing to terrorize it this present minute in the various strikes that are now being conducted. It is wicked that these few men—officials of the U. T. W.—have been allowed to take advantage of Section 7a of the code and disrupt the working conditions in the greatest industry in the United States.

Take the Hamilton Woolen Co. of Southbridge, Mass., and the labor situation in that mill and town as typical of the whole textile industry—and because textile manufacturing in its labor situation is hardly different than other industries, the Hamilton Woolen Co. is undoubtedly representative of all kinds of industries throughout the whole United States.

For 120 years the Hamilton Woolen Co. has operated successfully. It has paid at least the general going wages. Its operations have been carried out along about the same lines as are about 1,200 other woolen and worsted mills. From the standpoint of the professional labor leaders there is just one thing in the Hamilton that differentiates it from the majority of the other 1,200 worsted mills, and that the fact that the Hamilton has been successful through the last six or seven years away ahead of the average. Hamilton Woolen has averaged to run better, to give the operatives more nearly 100 percent employment, to distribute more in wages as the result of steady operation, and to pay dividends to the stockholders ahead of most of its competitors. Here was a great outstanding success. Here, perhaps, the professional labor leaders could swarm down on the mill, and because it has been making money and has built up a working capital, and because at this particular minute the Hamilton has contracts to deliver goods, the professional labor leaders saw an opportunity to coerce the management into shortening hours or cutting down machine attendance, or paying higher wages. In any event, there seemed to be a chance for the officials of the United Textile Workers to bring about a strike and to blackjack the Hamilton management in settling the strike to the advantage of the U. T. W. officials. The mill had contracts that it wanted the fill, and it had profit-making possibilities that it wanted to complete, and that is all there is to the labor situation in Southbridge.

With one million textile workers and only 37,000 of them as members of the textile unions, how can it be possible that the highest authority in the United States government, who has forced this 7a and this labor union domination upon us should continue such enforcement in view of all the past and present facts?

TO THE CREDIT OF LABOR

What labor wisely did in Haverhill a few days ago was done with equal wisdom Tuesday in Salem. When labor costs become so high that manufacturers are unable to sell their product in the open competitive market there is obviously only one thing to do. Haverhill, an important shoe centre, long vexed with labor troubles, is a city essentially of a single industry. Shoe firms have been migrating, usually over the line into New Hampshire, in order to escape the conditions imposed by unionized labor which have steadily raised the cost of production and as steadily reduced the ability to sell.

This year the manufacturers found themselves so handicapped that they confronted the alternatives of reducing costs or quitting business. They explained the situation to labor, and the district council accepted a reduction of 12½ per cent. to cover the selling period which runs until July 1. This should make all the difference between shutdowns and no work and open gates and pay envelopes. The adjustment is the more creditable because the existing wage agreement was to run until the end of the year.

Now Salem in like manner has been saved the loss of its largest shoe factory. The employees, at a mass meeting with factory officials in attendance, agreed to wage cuts of 15 per cent. This means the salvaging for the general welfare of a normal annual payroll of \$250,000. It was to the interest of the workers that they accept this reduction and they made a large contribution to the general welfare by direct application of the rule of reason.

THE PRESS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1935 HAMILTON MILL STRIKE EVENTS

Sept. 4—General textile strike called. Plant open, some employees leave looms.

Sept. 5—Flying squadrons visit Southbridge, disorder results.

Sept. 6—Serious disorder and plant ordered closed by management "to prevent workers from violence."

Sept. 21—Reopen after settlement of general textile strike. Employees return to work.

Sept. 27—Second strike called. Discrimination claimed by union. Outbreaks occur and state police called.

Sept. 28—Agreement for settlement made by union officials, state board of conciliation and arbitration in a conference at Southbridge.

Oct. 1—Plant reopens and employees return to work.

Nov. 14—Third strike called, discrimination charged. Violence breaks out, state police detail of 50 men called into Southbridge.

Nov. 18—Union demands closed shop through state board.

Nov. 19—Management refuses closed shop demands and announced mill will run as open shop or leave Southbridge.

Dec. 10—Extreme violence breaks out, many arrested, homes stoned and state police detail increased.

Dec. 11—Management announced closing of plant, putting 600 who had remained at work out.

Dec. 12—Picketing suspended by the union.

Dec. 14—State board holds hearing at Southbridge to set blame for strike. Richard Lennihan, president, at this meeting announced the plant is permanently closed.

Dec. 19—Directors of company in Boston meeting vote to recommend to stockholders liquidation of company.

Dec. 23—State police detail recalled from Southbridge.

Jan. 8—State board requests union to call off strike so that "further negotiations for settlement might proceed."

Jan. 9—Union voted 480 to 2 against calling strike off.

Jan. 15—Stockholders of company vote liquidation at Boston.

The decision of the state board on setting the blame for the strike has not been made public.

During the early part of the third strike many outbreaks of violence occurred. More than 50 arrests were made, homes stoned and automobiles overturned.

Edward Fisher, member of the state board, said the members of his board had made three distinct efforts to settle the last strike but were unsuccessful.

RIVIERE ASSERTS UNION TO REMAIN

National Officer Claims Demands Will be Made If Plant Reopens

Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America will be in existence and ready closing of the Hamilton mill in a

and waiting with its demands if and when the Hamilton Woolen Co. reopens, Horace A. Riviere, fourth vice-president of the U. T. W. A., insisted today.

His statement came in the face of reports in Washington, D. C., that the National Textile Labor Relations Board, in conference with high national officials of the U. T. W. A., had secured their promise to recommend to the Hamilton local that the strike, now more than two months old,

statement issued at Providence, R. I. and charged it was done more to "circumvent the Federal government" than because of union action.

He promised the national union would "not consider the Southbridge situation a closed book" and expressed the opinion the mill would reopen.

Richard Lennihan, president of the company, returned to his office in Southbridge today but said there had been no developments since the stockholders voted to liquidate last Tuesday.

Former Manufacturer Writes About Southbridge Strike

The following letter was received yesterday at this office. We are not at liberty to mention the name of the writer, but if we could everyone in this and the adjoining towns would at once recognize it. The man who bears it was himself a leading citizen and a successful manufacturer of former years, known to everybody for his sterling worth and his ability in his field of work. He has been away from this immediate neighborhood for a number of years. He speaks with authority on the subject of which he writes. He says:

"I am sorry for the town of Southbridge to lose the Hamilton Woolen Co. I hope that the good citizens of the town will not now let the

matter drop, but let all the people know, as many of the names of the Union as possible, who live in the town who are giving their support to the Union, who listen to outsiders, and gangsters rather than to these that are interested for the welfare of the town. The list of names should be published, and sent to mill managers in nearby towns, and also published.

The town should in some manner get rid of as many of these undesirable by one way or another as possible, and the people who have brought on this great catastrophe get some of the punishment that they deserve.

The Last Trek From Globe Village

The great trek from Globe Village has begun, the past two or three weeks seeing the departure of the first of the employees of the Hamilton Woolen Co's closed mill and taking final departure to new fields. They have gone to scattered mill towns, to be soon followed by hundreds of others, and thus comes the breakup of a settlement which throughout the more than hundred years has grown, prospered and formed a most important part of this community.

It is noted that most of those who have already gone are among the most skillful of the employees. These seem to be in demand more than the average mill hand. Of course there are some who will never leave Southbridge, even though thrown out of employment. These are the people who have never lived anywhere else

and who are in a way of speaking part and parcel of the soil, steady, prudent and God-fearing people who can no otherwise.

They it is who are and who are to be, the sufferers mental as well as material. Throughout the varying years they did well. They deserve and are receiving the sympathy of every reflecting person in Southbridge.

As an indication of the country wide interest in the unusual features of the closing of the Hamilton Woolen it may be said that the Detroit Press gave a front page column report to the meeting of the stockholders held in Boston Tuesday, devoting most of the space to George Grant's talk in an effort to have the question of liquidation further considered at a subsequent meeting.

Last Phase of H. W. Co. Many Southbridge Persons Attend Stockholders Meeting Efforts To Save Industry Fruitless

The stockholders in the Hamilton Woolen Co. at a meeting on last Tuesday, voted to liquidate the affairs of the company by a ballot of 26,589 to 315. Of the 30,855 shares, 28,266 were represented at the meeting. It was stated that 3034 shares were represented in person and 25,232 by proxy.

Opening the meeting Richard C. Lennihan, president of the mills corporation, said the financial statement as of November 30, 1934 showed net current assets of \$2,219,157.86 and net current liabilities of \$793,096.43. He stated the net loss to the company during the year, including the period of three strikes, which started in September was \$275,167.43.

Mr. Lennihan read a long statement, the same mailed to every stockholder some time ago. In answer to the pleas made for the re-

tention of the mills he said, "I wish all to be assured that we have considered this move since last November. Our thoughts have been of the town and the workers. The directors felt that continued operation of the mill under the present circumstances would mean a dissipation of the assets."

Southbridge was represented at the meeting by a large number headed by the selectmen, officials of the M. & M. association, an organization that left no stone unturned in a persistent effort to avert the calamity, and representatives of other civic and fraternal organizations.

The meeting was addressed by George Grant, George Laplante, Daniel P. Bernheim, Valmore P. Tetreault, Harry Eller and Arthur Howarth.

LOYAL WORKERS WILL RETURN

Mill Plans to Reopen On Temporary Basis If Peace is Assured

Hamilton Protective Association, Through Laplante, Agrees to Resume its Jobs; Union Expected To Discuss Proposal by Lennihan Tomorrow

WORK IS EXPECTED TO LAST 6 TO 8 WEEKS

Resumption of Operations Called Part of Program For Liquidation; Plan Will Give Employment To 1,000 Persons at Weekly Payroll of \$20,000

The Hamilton Protective association, through its president, George J. Laplante, expressed its willingness today to return to the Hamilton Woolen Co. Monday, Jan. 28, on a temporary basis to finish goods now in process.

Richard Lennihan, president of the woolen concern, stressed the assertion the employment would be temporary only, lasting for a period of from six to eight weeks, and was a part of the contemplated plan of liquidation.

Members of the Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America, scheduled to meet tomorrow afternoon in Pilsudski hall, will discuss Mr. Lennihan's proposal to reopen the plant.

No indication regarding what action the union would take was available today. Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the local, was out of town and could not be reached for comment. Her whereabouts was unknown.

Mr. Lennihan conditioned the temporary resumption of operations on the agreement of the union and the protective association that there will be no disturbances. He said he would wait until Wednesday for the assurances which will guarantee the reopening.

Should there be any hint of violence or disagreement, the proposal will be shelved, the company executive added.

All Will Go Back

All former employes of the firm will be permitted to return, whether they were strikers or are members of the recently formed protective association.

Mr. Lennihan said he could give work to 1,000 persons and pay a weekly payroll of approximately \$20,000 while the mill was in temporary operation.

He gave credit for the plan to resume activities to Daniel P. Bernheim, president of the Manufacturers and Merchants association, Maurice A. Taylor and Oswald J. Laliberte, members of the M. and M. committee which has been endeavoring to retain the plant for Southbridge, and Mr. Laplante, who also has been active in the effort to restore the mill to its former status of a going concern.

The agreement of the protective association to Mr. Lennihan's proposal placed the issue squarely on the union's doorstep for ultimate decision.

Look to Union Heads

Without being able to obtain complete confirmation, it was apparent the Hamilton local would have to abandon its strike if it were to return to work. Whether national heads of greater stature than Horace Riviere, fourth national vice-president of the U. T. W. A., will recommend termination of the strike, thus overriding Mr. Riviere's assertion of yesterday that the union would be ready

and waiting with its demands when the plant reopens, was the focal point of interest today.

It was reported reliably in Washington yesterday that Mr. Riviere's efforts to keep the strike in effect would be disregarded and the union instructed on higher authority to drop its walkout.

Notice of the intended reopening has been sent to Mr. Laplante and will be given to the union. Notice also was forwarded to Mr. Bernheim.

Mr. Lennihan, asserting the company had sufficient raw material, orders and goods in process to give employment for nearly two months, added that if the proposal were rejected or if there were signs of disorder, the mill had but the one alternative of moving materials to other plants where the contracts could be fulfilled.

He indicated that if any of the raw material were shipped elsewhere, machinery necessary for completion of orders would be for sale.

Mr. Bernheim, following the overwhelming vote of the stockholders in Boston last Tuesday to liquidate, asked that the mill be left in good condition, thus insuring its attractiveness to any prospective purchaser.

Mr. Lennihan, at the meeting, promised he would do all possible to aid Southbridge in the carrying out of the stockholders' decision to dissolve the firm.

Final decision on the reopening of the plant temporarily will be made by the company president Wednesday after he has received replies from the parties involved in his proposal.

WORCESTER EVENING GAZETTE,
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1935.

REACTION OF UNION AWAITED IN HAMILTON MILL OPENING

Decision of Textile Workers Needed Before Company Will Resume Temporarily to Complete Unfinished Orders—President Lennihan Says Six to Eight Weeks' Work Is Available, Provided There Is No Strike Trouble

SOUTHBRIDGE, Jan. 19.—Textile workers, both union and non-union, and the merchants are anxiously awaiting the reaction of United Textile Workers officials to the proposal of President Richard Lennihan of the Hamilton Woolen Company that all former employes return to the mill for temporary work to finish uncompleted orders now on the books.

The action of union officials, it is believed, will determine whether or not the mill will reopen for a six to eight weeks' period, offering an aggregate payroll of \$160,000.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local of the union, has requested national officers of the union to send instructions.

President Lennihan has stipulated that the mill will reopen only if he has assurances that there will be no renewal of the strike troubles that occurred during November and December. He has stated that former loyal workers, organized as the Mutual Protective Association, and former strikers who are members of the U. T. W. will be given employment if they will give a guarantee of peace. The Mutual Protective Association has a membership of about 700 and the local U. T. W. union claims a membership of about 500. If the mill reopens on Jan. 28 as proposed, it will probably remain open until about April 1. Some business men here believe President Lennihan's proposal is an offer of a truce in the labor trouble and that there is hope the mill will remain open permanently if his offer is accepted and peace maintained.

President Lennihan asserts, however, that the temporary operation of the mill will be just a process in the liquidation proceedings. He requests an answer to his proposals not later than next Wednesday.

J. Edouard Demers, chairman of the selectmen, hailed President Lennihan's offer as "a great piece of news" and he promised to co-operate to see there are no strike disorders if the mill reopens.

George J. Laplante, head of the Mutual Protective Association immediately began contacting members of the association in order that he might give assurance of the co-operation of that organization to Mr. Lennihan. Miss Jean Gauthier has suspended action on the proposal pending instructions from national headquarters of the United Textile Workers.

Textile Labor Board Enters Strike Picture

Special Correspondence

STAFFORD SPRINGS, Conn., Jan. 19.—Alfred Robinson, a representative of the National Textile Labor Relations Board, was in Stafford Springs today attempting to ascertain facts which led to the strike and its continuance at the Cyril Johnson Woolen Co.

Company officials said they had conferred with Mr. Robinson, who had made no suggestions concerning a plan for settling the strike, which was called last Monday when union workers protested the employment of two persons engaged by the Hamilton Woolen Co., Southbridge, Mass., while a union walkout was effective there.

A meeting of employes yesterday resulted in confusion when 100 union members walked out. The remaining employes voted 69 to 4 to return to work. The union workers later balloted 103 to 0 to remain on strike.

Mr. Robinson also conferred with union officials, who were understood to have said they would not return to work until the two former Massachusetts mill employes had been dropped from the local payroll.

State police returned to Stafford Springs yesterday for the meeting of workers and remained here today.

The company said it had no intention of reopening its strike-closed plant.

Slaughter of the Innocent

The National Significance of Labor Organization Through Violence

Hamilton Woolen Mills

By RICHARD DONHAM

THE Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc., of Southbridge, Mass., closed its doors Dec. 11, 1934. On Jan. 15, 1935, the stockholders voted overwhelmingly to liquidate. One thousand workers were affected directly, 10,000 people indirectly; for this was the town's second largest industry. It had been in operation over a century. Unfortunately as the situation was, however, it would have had little news value were it not for one fact: This closing did not mark the death of a marginal producer, of an unprofitable enterprise. Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc., was not only profitable, but outstandingly so in the industry. At the time of closing, its goods were in active demand, its cash and current position was strong. Yet the vote for liquidation was 26,589 to 815. Why?



PRES. RICHARD LENNIHAM

The decision was the culmination of a bitter struggle between the management and the United Textile Workers of America. But it was not made by a management unfriendly to labor; it was not born of a selfish, inhuman stubbornness. The very employees who, at the stockholders' meeting, pleaded for delay and further consideration, were high in their praises of the company executives. They were grateful for fair treatment and for unusually steady employment. They were willing and anxious to place their future destiny in the hands of Richard Lenniham, president of the company. For a proper understanding of the decision, therefore, some additional background is necessary: First, an acquaintance with the Administration's attitude toward labor; second, a knowledge of the company's history during the years immediately preceding and included in the depression; third, a familiarity with the sequence of events leading up to the closing of the mill in mid-December.

The Administration and Labor—Section 7a

The Administration at Washington is friendly to labor. Disturbed by unemployment, and by sweat-shop conditions, "yellow dog" contracts, and other abuses, it is genuinely interested in bettering the working man's lot. To this end Section 7a, National Industrial Recovery Act, was composed. Inherent and basic to it and to the Administration's general attitude toward labor, are at least two assumptions: (1) That labor, if permitted to organize, will shortly better its own status; (2) that the main obstacle in the path of such a movement is the employer, traditionally opposed to organized labor. Accordingly, Section 7a specifies the right of employees to organize and to select representatives of their own choosing without interference, restraint or coercion by employers or their agents. The attempt to remove influences which have restricted the voluntary organization of labor in the past has much to recommend it. But in concentrating on preventing interference from employers the Administration has overlooked another source of danger perhaps even more important. Professional labor organizers have no less a selfish interest in the situation than the employers of labor. Previously an important and, in the main, constructive left wing force, they find themselves suddenly moved into the center of the social stage. This overnight shift leaves them a little breathless; it seems too good to be true; it probably will not last. Their immediate concern, therefore, is to capitalize the opportunity to the fullest extent. Speed is placed at a premium. Sudden, far-reaching social changes are always stubbornly resisted by those who are, or think they are, adversely affected. At the same time, those favorably affected will overstep the bounds of propriety in pressing the advantage of their new-found power.

Labor Unrest Exemplified

Speed in the organization of labor, then, means much violence. It means unrest and uncertainty, as does any rapid change, at a time when industry and labor alike are striving for stability. Sustained success from a profit's point of view and successful employer-employee relationships more often go together than not, and relatively steady employment, both as cause and effect, is ordinarily found to accompany these conditions. But organization through the strike weapon is generally much easier among groups of individuals who have enjoyed steady employment than among groups of individuals who are afraid of losing their jobs. Therefore, the activities of labor organizers will be directed in large part toward the unionization of companies

already on amicable terms with labor rather than at the dark spots in industry which the Administration is anxious to see cleaned up. Also, in preference to admitting defeat at one of these focal points, union organizers will ruthlessly sacrifice the local workers. To the organizers these workers are merely privates killed in action for the good of a greater cause.

The experience of the Hamilton Woolen Co. is a case in point. In 1927, following three years of substantial operating losses, the then management of the corporation recommended its liquidation. Steady employment for anything like a full labor force was a thing of the past. The group which constitutes the present management felt that the mill could be made profitable, and at a stockholders' meeting in February, 1928, this group won out. The new management discontinued the old line of heavy serges, for which demand was fast waning, and introduced new lines of style merchandise. Old machinery was scrapped, new machinery installed, excess real estate sold, plant improved, and overhead reduced. In 1928, the first year of operation under the new regime, a profit of \$85,000 was reported. From then on steady progress was made. Profits in 1933 amounted to \$283,000, or \$9.17 per share.

During this period, in fact down to the fall of 1934, the mill was in constant operation and employment was steady; particularly so in comparison to other units in the industry. No union, company, or trade existed, but relations with employees were on a mutually satisfactory basis. When occasion arose the employees found means of making known their wishes to the management.

On Sept. 4, 1934, the general textile strike was called. All Hamilton employees reported for work. At 10.00 p. m., September 5, a number of pickets, estimated at 200, arrived in Southbridge from out of town. The management sent home workers on the night shift by the back gate. The next morning the mill opened as usual with a full labor force. Large numbers of pickets from out of town appeared during the morning in flying squadrons. The mill was forced to close at 11.00 a. m.

Details of the Hamilton Woolen Case

From September 7 to September 21 outside organizers held frequent meetings in an attempt to establish a union. Organizers also visited workers at their homes, stating that the mill was going to be unionized and that jobs would be available only for union members. Of no less importance were the reported representations of the organizers that they were apostles of President Roosevelt, whose wish it was that all working men should become union members. The combined tactics were successful and Local Number 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America had its beginnings. Some of the Hamilton workers began to picket the mill.

On Saturday, September 22, President Roosevelt issued his statement, based on the Winant report, asking workers to go back to their jobs and employers to rehire without discrimination. The Hamilton plant was reopened on Monday. On Wednesday,

DR. DONHAM is Assistant Professor of Business Policy at the Harvard University School of Business Administration. As a preface to his article he has this to say:

"I am a stockholder in Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc., and a friend of Richard Lenniham, its president. During 1928, I worked for some weeks as an unskilled laborer in the packing and yarn departments of the company. I have tried not to let these facts influence my thinking, but it is improbable that I have wholly succeeded. I record them here in order that the reader may make his own allowances for them."

September 26, in answer to union propaganda that the mill was to be a closed shop, the company posted a notice to employees saying that neither membership nor non-membership in a union would affect a worker's ability to keep a job in the mill. That evening a strike was voted by the Hamilton local, effective the following day. The charge was discrimination. According to executives of the company, workers had been taken in gradually as jobs were available regardless of their activities during the period when the mill was closed. The truth of this statement cannot be established without an elaborate study of company and union records. Nevertheless, it can be pointed out that no manufacturing concern employing 1000 workers can start up after a three-week shut-down exactly where it left off. Until the flow of work has been re-established, depending on the particular jobs available, some union men will be re-employed before and

cents

as Illustrated by the Closing of

some after non-union men. At the time the second strike was called the Hamilton mill had not attained a complete resumption of operations.

The mill opened as usual on Thursday, with many people at work and many pickets at the gates. At the close of the day shift local police were unable to prevent a number of cases of violence. On Friday an oral agreement was reached with the assistance of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, under which the company agreed to re-employ, wherever possible, all those who had been on the payroll at the time of the first shutdown. Also, machinery was set up for arbitration of grievances. In cases of dispute all matters were to be referred to the State Board for arbitration before a strike could be called.

The Third Strike Call

Between October 2 and November 13 the company accepted large orders at no profit in order to speed up the process of re-employment. On November 14, a strike was called at the close of the day shift. Damage was done to work in process by union employees as they left their machines. Complete destruction of a substantial part of the work in process was averted only by prompt action on the part of loyal employees. Executives of the Hamilton Woolen Co. said the strike was called without warning. They were aware of no unsettled cases in dispute and no cases had been referred to the State Board. Officials of the local union refused to confer with the management. Two days later the management received a letter setting forth the demands of the strikers as follows: (1) Union shop; (2) Reduction in machine load; (3) Increase in wages; (4) Equal distribution of work.

In view of the fact that the union later asserted that unsettled grievances did exist and that the company had been warned of the strike, testimony by union officials at a hearing in Southbridge is of import. According to Ira Dickens, central Massachusetts organizer of the UTWA, a strike vote was taken on a Sunday night early in November, and warning was given that a strike would be called on Thursday if grievances were not adjusted by that time. Then, Mr. Dickens said, one of the Selectmen of the town brought word from the company's president that all union members would be taken back within ten days. The Selectman requested that the strike be delayed until the expiration of that period.

Although the union agreed and no new grievances were reported to the management, the strike came in eight days.

Following Mr. Dickens's testimony, George La Plante, of the Hamilton Employees Protective Association, a non-union organization representing the majority of the company's workers, came to the platform with a question. He asked Mr. Dickens to justify the legality of the final walkout order, as representing a local strike vote rather than one taken by outsiders, when Jean Gauthier, president of the local union, was herself at work and knew nothing about it until she was called out with the rest.

Mr. Dickens stood silent and Joseph Sylvia, New England UTWA organizer, answered for him. His reply is quoted from the *Southbridge Evening News*, Dec. 14, 1934:

"It is none of your business . . . who took the strike vote or who called the strike." He concluded that he was interested in the welfare of members of the union, and not in that of strike-breakers, and that he regarded himself as the instrument of the President of the United States in trying to fulfill the President's desire.

The weeks that intervened between November 14, the date of the last strike, and December 11, the day on which the Hamilton Woolen Company closed permanently, were marked by continued violence. On one occasion dynamite was found near the mill. Nevertheless, the number of employees steadily increased until approximately two-thirds of the normal number were working. Union organizational activities, however, had been strategically directed and the strike resulted in tying up the weaverroom, perhaps the most essential department of the mill. Pres. Lennihan and the directors of the company came to realize that continued successful operations would be impossible if conditions were not corrected. In accordance with its obligation to its loyal workers and to the community, the company issued two statements on November 19.

The Company States Its Views

The first of these reviewed the situation since September 6 as the management understood it, and placed the major issues before the town, concluding with these paragraphs:

The management of Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc., is not willing to continue to operate in Southbridge under conditions which threaten the safety of the lives and property of its employees and their families. It will not attempt to operate a closed shop.

In the last analysis the question whether Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc., continues to operate in Southbridge will be determined by the public opinion of that community of which

the employees of the company constitute an important part.

The second notice, a brief one, was addressed to employees. It stated that the union's demand for a closed shop had been explained by its representative to mean that no one could work in the mill unless he was a member of the union. This demand had been definitively refused by the corporation's board of directors which had voted to run an open shop under conditions safe for its employees or quit in Southbridge.

Mass picketing continued. In spite of the presence of State police dispatched to the town by Governor Joseph B. Ely to aid in preserving order, outbreaks of violence were frequent. The record of arrests over the next few weeks is a long and amazing one. The tactics which had their origin in the flying squadron soon were adopted to a greater or lesser extent by both factions of employees.

Various conferences between the union and the management were held during the last weeks in November and the first weeks in December with the aid of representatives of the National Textile Relations Board as well as the State Board. No settlement was reached, although at one meeting Mr. Lennihan offered to take back as many strikers as possible, leaving to the State Board the problem of disposing of any unabsorbed surplus by some work-sharing plan. Although this suggestion was satisfactory to the State Board, including the labor representative, and to the government representatives from Washington, it was summarily refused by the union.

"Discrimination" the Charge

The company and the union remained deadlocked on two issues. The union insisted on a closed shop and the rehiring of all employees without discrimination. It defined the term "without discrimination" to mean the rehiring of all workers in the same jobs which they had held September 6, at the time of the first strike. The company refused to operate a closed shop while a majority of its employees were unwilling to join the union, and it refused to rehire without discrimination as of September 6. Since it is probable that the strike could have been settled had it not been for the deadlock over this last point, the position taken by the company needs closer scrutiny.

Consider the make-up of the working force at the Hamilton mill. During the week which ended with the closing of the plant September 6, 965 people were at work regularly. In the three days preceding the last strike, 972 people were at work. On December 11, when the mill closed for good, 720 people were at work. This last group consisted of 583 loyal workers, many of whom had been promoted to better jobs in positions left vacant by strikers, and 137 new workers, residents of the community who wanted to work, but who had not worked regularly at the mill before. They were not trained to the company's methods. Altogether, the labor force presented a group far below pre-strike standards in efficiency.

To re-employ all strikers without discrimination meant: (1) Leaving undisciplined those union members who had left their machines under conditions which were destructive of work in process; (2) Demoting, for a second time, old employees who did not want to join the union and who had stuck to their work in the face of personal danger, to make room at their old jobs for employees who had at least once, and in many cases twice before, gone out on strike; (3) Firing new employees which the company had been training, who had been willing to face personal danger to get a job. Anyone familiar with factory operations and aware of the extent to which ill feeling had grown between strikers and non-strikers in Southbridge would recognize the tremendous difficulty of running a plant on a competitive cost basis under these conditions. The sound employer-employee relationships which had been the foundation of success had gone. Neither the loyal workers nor the strikers formed alone a group capable of manning the Hamilton plant. To continue operations meant placing side by side in the factory members of both of these groups, resentfully opposed to one another.

Two Alternatives

As time went on, other considerations became of equal importance. The company had been unable to promise deliveries on new orders and was behind on its deliveries against old orders. For a corporation manufacturing style fabrics where timeliness is of first importance, this meant serious interference with its ability to compete in the market; prolonged it meant the loss of market contacts which it had taken six years to build up. There were two alternatives which might have been followed. One was to import workers, "strike-breakers," from out of town in order to get a full force, the other was to sign an agreement with the union. The first meant violence of even more serious proportions than were already extant. It also meant that while new men were being trained and morale was being rebuilt, efficiency would be below that of competitors. Almost certainly it would mean prosecution of the company under 7a.

The second alternative, that of signing an agreement with the union, the company also refused. The logic of this refusal, when other companies in many industries have felt able to continue operations under union-labor contracts, requires examination. Even though employee morale had been completely broken the problem, from that standpoint, was not unique. It has been found possible in similar breakdowns, given time and favorable conditions, to rebuild morale in spite of the enmity existing between the two factions. The crux of the matter, in the case of the Hamilton Woolen Co., was that the management could not count on favorable conditions. The executives had to deal not with a seasoned union under natural leadership, but with a

Slaughter of the Innocents

green union under the leadership, for the most part, of outsiders. The management had every reason to believe that settling this strike, even on the terms demanded by the strikers, would provide only a temporary respite. The union had shown itself to be wholly irresponsible. It had used violence, it had called strikes with a suddenness which belied a willingness to reason rather than to act, it had broken an agreement made before the State Board, it had refused settlement proposals which had appeared fair to non-partisan conciliators. Some of its membership had been gained through intimidation. If it were to hold these members it must periodically have something tangible to point to in return for dues paid.

In any company there are bound to be some workers who will not always handle their jobs as well as they might. Management, which is answerable on a competitive basis for the efficiency of its operations, must have the authority to direct workers and to enforce discipline. It is equally true that in any exercise of authority over a period of time mistakes will be made by those to whom authority has been delegated. For example, foremen may be too harsh or may be influenced by personal likes or dislikes. However, unless identical mistakes continue uncorrected or are repeated over and over again even after they have been called to the management's attention, they should not constitute grounds for a strike. An established, responsible union knows this. Yet an irresponsible and unscrupulous union may readily seize upon such mistakes as apparently legitimate excuses for drastic action. Under the circumstances, continued trouble at the Hamilton Woolen Co., mill could be foreseen with some assurance.

Some indication of the kind of future difficulty which lies in store for textile companies unionized by methods similar to those employed at Southbridge may be learned from the remarks of Francis J. Gorman, vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America, at a rally in Webster, Mass., December 23. A large number of Hamilton strikers were present. *The Boston Herald* reported Mr. Gorman as saying:

"If conditions are not right in your mill, you do not have to notify the management you are going to strike. Walk right out . . .

"From all parts of the country, I am receiving messages in my office saying that they feel confident we are going to get results from the settlement of the strike, but when they do, I think we should have another strike in the spring. Of course, you say, that is foolish if you haven't anything to strike for, but that shows, as we showed last September, when they said we could get only about 10,000 out and 500,000 left their looms and withheld labor, they were astonished and amazed."

The Hamilton Woolen management had been put in an impossible position by labor organizers operating in the name of President Roosevelt and under the protection of Section 7a. Liable to prosecution for the use of any direct means of fighting the attack itself, it had asked help from the community. The community, however, lacked the necessary leadership; numerous resolutions were passed, but no action was taken. It was Southbridge's first experience with flying squadrons. In spite of the fact that 720 residents of the community wanted to work, the ability to provide that work was taken out of the hands of the management. To continue operations would not have given the loyal employees many months more to work and it would have dissipated the assets of the stockholders. Conditions would soon have approximated those of 1927 and a forced liquidation would have been inevitable.

Strong-Arm Unionization of Labor—Its Dangers

What happened at the Hamilton Woolen Co. presents a dramatic illustration of what is happening and what may happen on a national scale. Unionization of industry through violence and intimidation is one of the most important issues before the country today. It has so far escaped the prominence which it deserves because its real nature has been cleverly hidden under the name of collective bargaining and the wishes and promises of President Roosevelt. It is not collective bargaining and it is not, surely, the wish of President Roosevelt. But it can be met, as was the Boston Police Strike, only by the prompt and concerted action of courageous leaders and massed forces of public opinion.

High union officials must keep a closer guard over the actions of their lieutenants, remembering that in any organization during a period of rapid expansion it is necessary to delegate authority with greater than usual care, for the concomitant responsibility cannot be wholly and easily assigned. Industrial executives must meet collective bargaining with the honest co-operation which it deserves, but they must meet violence and irresponsibility with the same decision they were accorded by the management of Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc. Nor is the Administration without direct responsibility. When government representatives treat strike situations where violence and destruction have been rampant with the conciliatory phrase, "there is something to be said on both sides," leadership has failed. There is not something to be said on both sides. The original grievances no longer constitute the issue.

The final decision, as the company's notice told the people of Southbridge, will be made by the community of which the working man constitutes an important part. The community is the United States. If the people permit unionization by violence to continue, that way lies retarded recovery and chaos—perhaps reaching the proportions of a civil war. If the people distinguish sharply between unionization by violence and intimidation and unionization based on natural leadership and collective bargaining, that way lies improved industrial activity and lasting betterment of the working man's lot in society.

Strikers Leave Return to Work Up to National Union Officers

SOUTHBRIDGE, Jan. 21.—Hamilton Local, U. T. W., last night voted to leave the matter of returning to work up to the national officers of the union.

A telegram was sent this morning to Washington stating the local union's side of the situation with a request that a reply be given immediately.

Pres. Richard Lennihan of the closed Hamilton company last Friday night issued a statement requesting all former employees, regardless of whether they are union or non-union members to return to work possibly a week from today and complete cloth now in process of manufacture. This would give work to the 1100 men and women until early in April.

Mr. Lennihan wished to be notified Wednesday and if a favorable reply is received he will immediately place a crew at work getting all machinery and everything else in readiness for re-opening.

Directors and stockholders voted for liquidation at a meeting in Boston last Tuesday, but many are of the hopes the mill can yet be saved if a peaceful settlement of the labor trouble which began Labor Day, can be made.

CLERGYMEN URGE RETURN TO WORK

Southbridge Ministers and
Priests Pray for Peace-
ful Settlement

SOUTHBRIDGE, Jan. 21.—Southbridge clergymen all voiced the hope that peace will again reign here as regards the troubled situation at the Hamilton Woolen Co. and prayers in some churches were offered that employment would be had. That Southbridge weathered the several years of depression far better than any community of its size in the country was also mentioned. The past should be forgotten as far as industrial strife is concerned was pointed out in practically all churches. If both union and non-union workers return when the Hamilton company is opened, probably a week from today for at least eight weeks, it may yet be possible to prevent liquidation, was also mentioned.

George J. LaPlante, head of the Mutual Protective Association at the Hamilton Woolen Co., representing the 681 who remained at work all during the strike, are unanimously in favor of again returning to their duties, Mr. LaPlante states. The loom fixers and weavers held a meeting in Pilsudski hall yesterday afternoon and it was agreed to await word from the union officials as regards returning to work.

MILLS FAIL TO OPEN AT STAFFORD SPRINGS

STAFFORD SPRINGS, Conn., Jan. 21 (INS)—Mills of the Cyril Johnson Woolen Company here did not open today following failure of strike conferences over the week-end between workers and company officials. Workers a week ago went on strike when officials refused to discharge the alleged strikebreakers and insisted the plant would be run on an open shop basis.

Union Awaits Advice From National Chiefs

GORMAN ASKED TO GIVE REPLY BY TOMORROW

Local has Long Discussion Of Lennihan Proposal Without Ballot

M. & M. HEEDS MOVES

Town's Clergymen Advise Workers to Accept Offer of Work

Decision whether the Hamilton Woolen Co. would reopen temporarily next Monday for a period of six or eight weeks as part of the process of liquidation today was no longer in the hands of Southbridge but rested with officials of the United Textile Workers of

America in Washington D. C.

Members of Hamilton Local 2324 of the U. T. W. A., meeting last night after the Hamilton Protective association, through its president, George J. Laplante, had agreed to return to work, decided to submit the entire problem to national heads of the union.

Joseph Sylvia, New England organizer of the U. T. W. A., and Harold Daoust, Farnumville organizer, were understood to have attended the meeting last night in Pilsudski hall, although confirmation could not be gained.

Wants No Disorder

Richard Lennihan, president of the woolen concern, submitted his plan for reopening the mill on a purely temporary basis to local union heads prior to last night's session. Mr. Lennihan repeated his assertion of last week the plant would resume operations on a full-time basis, with 1,000 workers, union and non-union alike, if all would assure him there would be no attendant disorders.

He told union leaders he expected a reply from them Wednesday.

The Manufacturers and Merchants association, which met in Hotel Columbia this noon for its weekly meeting, was following developments closely and was ready to give any assistance possible in securing a reopening of the local plant.

Indications today were that the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, blocked in every effort it has made to settle the walkout at the Hamilton mill, would withhold its report fixing blame for the strike and its continuance until Mr. Lennihan's proposal has been accepted or rejected by the union.

Edward Fisher, chairman of the State board, has said the report would not be issued until virtually every hope of reopening the mill had died.

The union meeting, which began at 7:30 p. m. yesterday, did not end until nearly 11.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the local, said there was considerable discussion of Mr. Lennihan's proposal before members decided to refer the plan for decision to Francis J. Gorman, national vice-president of the union and its strike leader.

Miss Gauthier said she sent a telegram explaining the situation to Mr. Gorman today and expected a reply tomorrow.

She said following the meeting last night no vote was taken among the members whether to return to work for the proposed period of six to eight weeks. It

was learned, however, some of the union members favored the plan while others were opposed to it, preferring to remain on strike.

Advise Offer be Accepted

Pastors of local churches yesterday urged parishioners formerly employed at the Hamilton mill to heed the offer of Mr. Lennihan and return to their positions.

Msgr. M. A. Desrocher, pastor of Notre Dame church, Rev. Victor Epinard of Sacred Heart parish and Rev. Dennis A. Mullins of St. Mary's church joined in urging compliance with the mill president's arrangement to give temporary employment prior to liquidation.

Protestant ministers who described the proposal as fair included Rev. Frederick E. Kenyon of the Elm St. Congregational church, Rev. E. Nordin Gilbertson, pastor at the Methodist Episcopal church, and Rev. Elmer Druly of the Universalist church.

Lose No Time In Posting Letters

Eagerness of Hamilton employees to return to work at the mill is shown by the quickness of their response to the Selectmen's letter. Mailed late last night in Southbridge to all employees, it was distributed in the first mail this morning. Three favorable replies from Southbridge were received by the Selectmen in the 9 a. m. mail.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1935

NRA AND TEXTILE WORKERS

The average hourly wage of cotton textile workers has been increased from 21.8 cents in July 1933 to 34.6 cents in August 1934, and yet the "real wages" of the operatives were less this year than last. The Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington has included this statement in a report of its findings in a study of the cotton textile industry.

What do we mean by "real wages?" The term is applied to the amount of goods that can be bought by a man's wages in a given period, as for example a week, or a month, or a year. The report therefore tells us in effect the cotton workers are worse off with higher hourly rates than they were before.

The NRA code provided the higher wage, and other NRA codes increased the cost of everything the worker had to buy by as much as five to 10 percent. Further, the cotton textile code pushed up the price of cloth enough to curtail retail sales, thus reducing employment, and injuring the workers who were to be benefited.

To paraphrase a familiar line, "The NRA giveth, and the NRA taketh away."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics made its investigation in consequence of the general textile strike in September, and its report contains other interesting findings. For example, it is revealed cotton textile workers have enjoyed a greater increase in hourly pay since the codes came into effect than those in any of the other 85 industries making monthly reports to the Bureau.

Also that the charge made by the U. T. W. A. that many employers keep a double set of books to cheat their employees could not be proved. The complaint that many employers pay less than code minimum wages also failed of proof, as it was found most employers have been paying the minimum or better to an overwhelming majority of their employees.

Francis J. Gorman, first vice-president of the U. T. W. A. and manager of the general strike last fall, is highly satisfied with the report because, he says, it "rips the cover from the naked greed, the inhuman callousness of the mill owners and their managers." The workers, he said, "had not hoped for such a scouring set of revelations, coming in bare statement of fact."

No one is more willing than we to give Mr. Gorman credit for any sound opinions he may express, but we confess our puzzlement at the process of thought which brought him to this conclusion.

If the Bureau's report tells us anything, it assures us in unmistakable terms the NRA codes have harmed rather than helped the cotton textile operatives. What is the good in higher wage rates and shorter hours if the worker gets less in the end?

The code has been no more of a boon for the mill owners than for the operatives. When will someone in authority explain to Mr. Gorman that employees cannot prosper unless their employers thrive? If he would devote part of his boundless energy to the improvement of business prospects for the industry, we suspect the mill owners would be willing to talk with him about sharing the increase with their employees.

STRIKE ORDER MILL TO OP

Local Instructed By U.T.W.A. Officials To Accept Mill's Offer

Miss Gauthier Will Take Up Recommendations With
Union Members at Meeting This Afternoon; She
Was Advised by Riviere Sunday to End Strike

LENNIHAN PLEASED WITH DEVELOPMENTS

Hamilton President Tells The News From Boston
Plant Will Reopen Monday But has Nothing To
Add; Will Send Any Grievances to Capital

After a conference in Washington this morning the national officers of the U. T. W. A. sent word to Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, definitely instructing her and the members of the union here to call off their strike, and to return to work in the mill Monday morning.

At the conference were President Thomas J. McMahon, First Vice-President Francis J. Gorman, and Fourth Vice-President Horace A. Riviere.

Miss Gauthier said she would take up the order of the national officers with the members of the union at a meeting in Pilsudski hall this afternoon.

President Richard Lennihan is in Boston today conferring with other directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. When informed by telephone of the action of the U. T. W. A. officers in directing the local union to drop the strike and return to work, and asked for a statement, Mr. Lennihan said:

"The mill will open Monday morning."

He appeared to be pleased with the favorable developments of the day, but said he could add nothing more at present.

Mr. Riviere told The News of recent developments in a telephone talk from Washington today. He said he had met Miss Gauthier in Millbury, Mass., Sunday afternoon, and had then told her the national officers recommended calling off the strike and accepting the proposal of the Hamilton management to return to work on a temporary basis Monday, Jan. 28.

Mr. Riviere related today that he thought it was fully understood Sunday the recommendations of the national officers would be acted upon, and he was surprised to learn the Hamilton local had met Sunday night without taking the expected action. He laid this to a possible misunderstanding.

"The national officers have today instructed—not recommended—the Hamilton local to call off the strike," Mr. Riviere told The News in a later telephone conversation this afternoon, following the morning conference.

"We have instructed the members to go back to work in the mill Monday, and to turn over any grievances they may have to the National Textile Labor Relations Board in Washington.

"We wish it understood we do not want the Hamilton Woolen Co. to liquidate, and we propose to do nothing to give it any reason to do so. We do not intend to make any unreasonable requests of Mr. Lennihan, or to ask him to do anything that would put him at a disadvantage in meeting the competition of other mills."

The National Textile Labor Relations board in Washington has been active in promoting the cause of peace, in co-operation with the Massachusetts State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, and has conferred with U. T. W. A. officers to the end of calling off the strike.

Anticipating these developments, the Board of Selectmen late last evening mailed a letter to all Hamilton employes, urging them to return to work next Monday, and pledging their efforts in case all employes go back together peacefully, to prevail upon the stockholders of the Hamilton Woolen Co. to continue in business permanently in Southbridge.

Attached to the letter was a coupon, to be signed by the employe and returned in an enclosed, addressed stamped envelope to the Board of Selectmen. Signing and returning the coupon carried the promise to work peacefully during the period of temporary operations at the mill, but it meant no further obligation, and would in no way affect the employe's affiliation with his labor group.

The Selectmen have promised to hold in strictest confidence the names of all who sign the coupons, and the only use they will make of the pledges is to advise the Hamilton management of the number of employes they can expect to report for duty Monday.

This is the text of the Selectmen's letter:

To Employes of the Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc.

Your Board of Selectmen has learned that the Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc. has made an offer of about eight weeks' work to its employes, regardless of their affiliations with any organization.

In the best interests of Southbridge we strongly urge every employe to accept this offer, which will provide work through the remainder of the winter, and to forget all differences during this period.

If this be done we agree to do all within our power to persuade the Hamilton Woolen Company, Inc. to continue permanently in business in Southbridge.

We urge you to sign the coupon below at once which in no way binds you beyond the eight week period. Mail it immediately in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope.

Your reply is for OUR INFORMATION ONLY in order that we may advise the management whether or not their employes will return to work for this period.

Very truly yours
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
J. Edouard Demers
Julian C. Gabree
Valmore P. Tetreault

The coupon reads as follows:
Honorable Board of Selectmen
Southbridge, Massachusetts.

I will go in to work at Hamilton Woolen Company Monday, January 28, 1935, and agree to work peacefully during the next eight weeks.

Signed
Address

The Hamilton management is preparing to resume operations Monday in a manner calculated to promote the greatest possible degree of harmony. There will be some problems to solve, for the spinning department is far ahead of the weave shed, but the management will go as far as it can to provide immediate work for all who apply.

The duration of the work has been estimated at from six to 10 weeks, and the amount of payroll at from \$160,000 to \$180,000.

The Selectmen have given their promise to the employes to try to prevail upon the mill owners to remain in business permanently, and the special M. & M. committee comprising Daniel P. Bernheim, Maurice Taylor, and Oswald J. Laliberte, will redouble its efforts to persuade the stockholders against liquidation.

President Lennihan has made no recent comment on these efforts, and would make none today, except to say the action of the stockholders on Jan. 15 is known to all.

The hopes of all the organizations, committees, and individuals who have worked to keep the mill going are centered on the prospects of harmonious relations among the workers when operations begin Monday. A peaceful atmosphere and a helpful spirit everywhere in the mill probably would go further in persuading the stockholders to reconsider than anything else.

ED ENDED; EN MONDAY

BEST EDITORIAL OF THE DAY

ANOTHER ITEM IN GREAT BLUNDER

S. News (N. Y. Herald-Tribune) Jan. 23, 1935

That greatest blunder of the New Deal, NRA, has helped some industries undoubtedly. Indeed, where monopolies have been created, prices have in some cases been advanced beyond any justification, and profits have been excessive, to the consumers' damage. But these are exceptional. In a host of industries the manufacturer has been ground between a high wage scale, boosted by NRA, and an established price level through which he could not break.

One example of this last experience comes to light in the complete shutdown of the shops operated by members of the National Association of Men's Shirt and Boys' Blouse Contractors. There are 100 such shirtmakers. They employ about 20,000 workmen in the States of New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. The shops do cutting, stitching and finishing for distributors of the non-advertised brands. These distributors in turn face the problem of a demoralized retail market which insists upon low prices in order to pay its NRA wages and yet do business.

These shops have been operating under an order issued by President Roosevelt which cut the hours of workers in the cotton garment trades from 40 to 36 a week and raised wages 10 percent. No increase at all in prices was ordered.

The administration apparently will insist upon attempting to save its face by prolonging NRA for another year. But the evils of this ill-advised attempt to regulate in detail the industries of a continent are becoming more flagrant, not less. It lies bogged half-way between Moscow and the profit system, with the virtues of neither and the defects of both. It has interfered enough with the laws of supply and demand to derange the whole profit system, increasing profits exorbitantly in some cases, destroying all profits and every motive to do business in others, ruining yet others completely, especially small businesses with limited reserves of capital. It has not gone far enough in planning and regulating to achieve those theoretical benefits of communism which are conceivably possible for a people who neither know nor care for individual freedom.

STRIKE CALL LOCAL UNION

Members are Ready To Go Back to Work On Monday Morning

Local Asks Textile Labor Relations Board to Study
Cases of Discrimination as a Condition of Going
Back to Work; Douglas Telegraphs His Approval

MOVIES PHOTOGRAPH STRIKE PRINCIPALS

Joseph Sylvia, New England Organizer, Will Advise
Union Members to Go Back in a Friendly Spirit,
Expecting No Trouble; Prepare Mill for Work

The Hamilton local of the U. T. W. A. late yesterday afternoon voted to call off its strike and return to the mill Monday, provided the members are assured an equal share of the work, and the National Textile Labor Relations board gives its guarantee all grievances will be heard and adjusted.

This action was taken in consequence of instructions from national headquarters in Washington, under the guidance of Joseph Sylvia, who came up from Providence to lend a hand in the cause of peace.

The following statement was given The News by Mr. Sylvia today:

"At a meeting of local union 2324 U. T. W. A. in Southbridge on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 3 p. m. in Polish hall, the local voted to return to work on Monday, Jan. 28, with the proviso that there must be a guarantee from the National Textile Labor Relations board that the cases of discrimination will be adjusted and that the members will be given an equal share of work.

"Every member of the local union received a letter from the Selectmen requesting that they return to work. Members paid little or no attention to the request of the Selectmen, feeling that only by vote of the local union would they return to work. There was no dissension from the members attending the meeting.

"The following telegram was sent during the meeting to the National Textile Labor Relations board through Vice-President Gorman by Miss Jean Gauthier, president of local 2324 U. T. W. A.:

"Insofar as local 2324 is concerned on Sunday, Jan. 20, the local took action to place the entire matter in the hands of the National Textile Labor Relations board. We must have assurance from the board that discrimination will be adjusted and our members given an equal share of work. Please wire answer immediately.

"Jean Gauthier, president local 2324."

At 1:30 this afternoon Miss Gauthier received the following telegram from Col. Frank P. Douglas, chairman of the National Textile Labor Relations board:

"The board recommends calling off strike and returning to work, and in case of any discrimination you file complaints immediately and hearing will be called immediately thereafter to clear up any discriminations arising.

"Frank P. Douglas,

"Member National Textile Labor Relations Board."

Mr. Sylvia told the News he expects to urge the members of the union who have been employed at the mill to go back in a friendly and peaceful spirit, expecting no trouble. He said he was fully aware of the necessity of harmonious relations from the outset, and that he would do all he could to promote them.

Chairman Demers of the Board of Selectmen reported today several hundred favorable answers to their general letter had been received from Hamilton employees wishing to return to work, but he could give no details as the replies must be held in strict confidence.

The purpose of the Selectmen appears to have been misunderstood in some quarters. There was no intention to interfere with the action already going on in the union to clear up the strike, but merely a desire to get information of the numbers that might be counted upon to go back to work Monday, as a means of encouraging the mill management to proceed with its plans on as large a scale as possible.

Will Oppose Liquidation

The Selectmen have wished to act in the interests of Southbridge as a whole community, and they have pledged themselves to try to persuade the mill owners to give up their plan to liquidate.

President Richard Lennihan of the Hamilton Woolen Co. is in New York. Advised of the action of the union in voting yesterday to call off the strike he appeared greatly interested. He will return to Southbridge tonight.

Miss Jean Gauthier, president, and Miss Catherine Reilly, secretary of the Hamilton local, told The News today they were happy over the developments of the week, and the prospects of restoration of work in the mill. They believe the members of the local generally share their satisfaction.

Take Pictures Here

Paramount and Pathe news reel operatives were in town yesterday afternoon, getting the latest on the situation. The Paramount men invited George Grant, editor of The Press, George Laplante of the Protective association, Miss Gauthier of the Hamilton local, and Allen S. Richmond, secretary of the M. & M., to appear before the camera and the microphone to tell of their common desire for peace. They also photographed the mill.

The Pathe crew took pictures and statements at the mill, from George Laplante and Fred Bourassa, a foreman, and from mill workers in their homes.

The sound pictures will be shown at the Strand theater within two or three days.

A maintenance crew under the direction of J. T. Sutcliffe, production manager, is busy at the mill this week getting everything in readiness for the resumption of operations Monday.

Children in the public schools were asked yesterday whether their parents were Hamilton employees. The purpose of this canvass was to find out how much the school population might be affected if the mill closed permanently and a number of families moved out of town.

ED OFF BY YESTERDAY

Hamilton Management Hastens Preparations For Re-opening Plant

**So Many Plan to Return
Some May Have To
Wait a Few Days
MEETING IS CALLED
Lennihan to Make Clear
To Workers Conditions
For Mill Reopening**

So great is the satisfaction over the ending of the difficulties at the Hamilton Woolen Co. that all signs point to a general rush to return to work Monday.

This is so apparent that the management is not sure work can be provided the first day or two for all who apply, but the disposition is to meet the manifest good will of the employes as liberally as conditions will permit.

In order to prevent misunderstandings and to start thing off in the best possible spirit, President Lennihan is arranging a conference tomorrow with representatives of the employes in the Hamilton local of the U. T. W. and the Hamilton Protective as-

Both agreed to attend, he said. The conference had been scheduled tentatively for today but was postponed until tomorrow.

Miss Gauthier, in announcing she would attend, said she expected to bring the other union officers with her. Mrs. Violet Labonte, financial secretary and treasurer, was snowbound at her home at 54 Highland st. early today, Miss Gauthier said, and would have been unable to attend a session with company officials. Paul Vermiere, vice-president of the local, is working in Farnumsville and also could not have attended a meeting today.

Mill is Put in Shape

All union members who secured positions out of town after the mill closed down will return to Southbridge, Miss Gauthier said.

Mr. Lennihan said the mill was being put in shape today for a resumption of activities and that work would continue during the weekend.

Company heads were conferring at the plant regarding arrangements for reopening and hoped to announce their plans tomorrow.

Mr. Lennihan said no decision had been reached yet whether the plant would be able to resume immediately on a double-shift basis. He said this, among other details, would be decided before tomorrow.

Miss Gauthier said the union would endeavor to re-establish its friendly relationship with other employes so there would be no ill-feeling to mar the reopening of the mill.

She said all workers would be invited to attend the union minstrel show to be given in Town hall Friday, Feb. 22, and that notices of the entertainment would be posted at the mill.

Moosup Textile Plant Plans to Liquidate

Special Correspondence

MOOSUP, Conn., Jan. 24 — Moosup today was faced by the vote of the directors of the Aldrich Bros. Manufacturing Co. to liquidate the local plant, thus throwing 500 employes out of work and cutting the town's weekly industrial payroll by \$8,000. The mill was the largest single industry in Moosup.

Robert B. Hough, treasurer of the concern, said the decision to liquidate was made because of uncertain textile conditions and general economic disorders.

The plant has been closed since Oct. 6, 1934, following an effort to resume business Oct. 1, after the general textile strike.

National Textile Board Studies Johnson Strike

By News Staff Writer

STAFFORD SPRINGS, Jan. 24 — Hopes for an early settlement of the strike which closed down the Cyril Johnson Woolen Co. here Jan. 14 were expressed today when a company official, F. L. Luce, and union leaders met with the National Textile Labor Relations board in Washington.

The meeting, which was to begin at 10 a. m., was called by the Federal board when other efforts to end the walkout failed.

Strikers are picketing the Johnson plant daily in groups of 10. The shifts change every hour. Five State police officers have been stationed in the town to prevent disturbance. No violence has been reported.

The strike was called by union workers when two men who worked for a short time at the Hamilton Woolen Co. in Southbridge were given employment. The two men, one of whom belongs to the local union, are residents of Stafford Springs and formerly worked at the Johnson plant.

TIME TO FORGET MANY THINGS

The ability to forget some things quickly is often a convenient quality. If in their personal contacts at the mill on Monday and afterward the Hamilton employes can go back in memory to the days prior to Sept. 4 and forget everything that has happened since, it will be helpful.

The future of the Hamilton Woolen Co. may be determined largely by the willingness of the employes to be friends again, and to unite harmoniously in a great effort to prove to the management the mill can be operated successfully.

It has been repeatedly stated in the past week operations are to be temporary only, continuing for six to ten weeks, and that this resumption is only the first step in liquidation.

No one has any authority to challenge this announcement, but we cannot help wondering how the stockholders would feel if the employes went to work in such hearty good spirit that the efficiency of the mill could be shown to be very high again. It would be hard to close a mill permanently in the face of such a showing.

The time has come now to stop assigning blame for things that are finished and due to be forgotten. It is far better to recall the helpful efforts made by so many individuals and organizations to keep the Hamilton Woolen Co. alive and in operation, and to stop the strife that was injuring everybody.

THE NEWS believes it would be unfortunate if the trouble were to be kept alive by being dragged into local politics in the next six weeks. The candidacy of any man who hoped to get office by fanning the embers of the strike should be frowned upon and suppressed.

The strike should be forgotten quickly, and no good citizen will do anything to advance himself by stirring discords that might thus be prolonged, to the damage of the community.

Lennihan is Paid Tribute in Note

On a number of the coupons returned to the Board of Selectmen by Hamilton Woolen Co. employes desiring to return to work were written notes expressing the writers' views. The following has been chosen by the board as most expressive of the prevailing sentiment:

"Give us Lennihan for the Hamilton and give us the Hamilton for Southbridge."

sociation, in order to make clear all the circumstances under which the mill is opening, and to discuss working conditions generally.

Notifies Workers

Mr. Lennihan said he had notified Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the local, and George J. Laplante, head of the Protective association, of the conference, the time for which is yet to be fixed.

Hamilton Mills

S. Press-

Jan 25, '35

Strike Ended

Employees Return To Work

Next Monday

President Lennihan Promises

Six Weeks Work

Part of Liquidation Process

Weekly Payroll About \$20,000

While It Lasts

The strike at the Hamilton Woolen Co.'s mill has been called off after a long period during which many things have happened not necessary to rehearse now, that having been done altogether too often and not always with strict regard for the exact truth.

Random statements and observations have frequently clouded the situation, and in some cases contributed toward the bitterness that has marked the progress of events.

The local textile union, holding a key point in the disputes that followed the series of strikes, announced Wednesday afternoon that the strike was called off. This action was taken after word was issued from the Washington headquarters of the textile workers, directing the local to call off the strike. The original cause of the strike was lost sight of the increasing and varied demands of the local union culminating in an ultimatum that there must be a closed shop. Toward the end however, that demand had not been pressed openly.

Events moved rapidly following the vote of the stockholders to endorse the recommendation of the directors to liquidate the assets of the company and wind up for good and all the more than hundred year old industry, which had risen to a commanding place in the textile world since 1927 when the present management took control.

What was accomplished since that date until the strike was ordered is a chapter in manufacturing that will always remain one of outstanding importance in the long record of cloth making in this country. The success was so marked that when the announcement came that the mill was to be closed because of strikes, the industry throughout the country and more especially the community stood still in utter amazement. However it was realized that the question was whether the employees or the management was to have the say as to how the very details of the business was to be administered.

The decision of calling off the strike came directly upon the offer of President Richard Lennihan to open the mills for a period of six weeks or two months in order to complete orders that had been in process of manufacture before the last of the strikes. This step was taken as a part of the plan of liquidation.

It was also a prime consideration of Mr. Lennihan to give employment during the time mentioned and a consequent distribution in wages amounting, it is estimated to well on toward \$200,000.

And so, the trouble that started about the middle of November has apparently come to an end and the employees of the company, without discrimination of any sort, will return to work temporarily on next Monday.

Announcement of the local union's decision was made by Miss Jean Gauthier, president of the Hamilton local, U. T. W. following a conference with local union officers and about

25 members, and the receipt of orders from the Textile Labor Relations board at Washington.

The decision came in a 15 minute conference after a telegram had been received in which it was recommended immediate calling off of the strike, returning to work and any cases of discrimination arising to be referred to the board.

President Richard Lennihan stated last Friday that the Hamilton Woolen Co. would reopen the mills for six weeks or two months if the employees wished to return to work.

The reopening would be a "part of the liquidating proceedings," Mr. Lennihan said. The payrolls will aggregate \$160,000 during the temporary operation.

The mill closed early in December as the result of serious outbreaks of violence, that being the third strike in two months. The stockholders overwhelmingly voted to liquidate.

Mr. Lennihan said he must be given assurance of the union workers on strike, and the loyal employees who were at work when the plant was ordered closed, that there will be no disorder. He said the mill has raw materials on hand and orders sufficient to operate for at least six week and possibly eight.

All former workers would be allowed to return, whether or not they went out on strike.

The vice president of the United Textile Workers, Horace A. Riviere, who has been handling the Washington end of the strike, in an interview at Washington said the strike was called off.

The local union at Southbridge had before them recommendations which Mr. Riviere sent them and which represented the position of the United Textile Workers of America. These recommendations were: (1) Vote to call off the strike. (2) Vote to return to work next Monday. (3) Vote to place any cases of labor discrimination before the National Labor Relations Board here. He assumed that a vote would be taken at once and all recommendations accepted by the local union.

He said he had been in communication with an assistant secretary of the National Textile Labor Relations board.

The selectmen mailed to all employees of the company the following letter:

"To employees of the Hamilton Woolen Co.: Your board of selectmen has learned that the Hamilton Woolen Co. has made an offer of about eight weeks work to its employees regardless of their affiliations with any organization.

"In the best interests of Southbridge we strongly urge every employee to accept this offer which will provide work through the remainder of the winter, and to forget all differences during this period.

"If this is done we agree to do all in our power to persuade the Hamilton Woolen Co. to continue permanently in business in Southbridge.

"We urge you to sign the coupon enclosed and return to the board

immediately. Signed, J. Edouard Demers, Julian C. Gabree, Valmore P. Tetreault, selectmen."

The attached coupon read: "I will go back to work, Monday, January 28, and agree to work peacefully eight weeks. The signing of this does not jeopardize my rights in any labor organization that I may belong to."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1935

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

For securing peace in the Hamilton strike and for their continuing efforts to persuade the management and stockholders to continue in business, credit is due a number of persons and organizations that have worked patiently and faithfully.

The Selectmen, headed by Chairman Demers, have taken every step open to them, and in doing so they have remembered their duty to the community as a whole. In no sense have they acted in a partisan way, and since their actions are subject to political review, fairness requires that their disinterested motives be taken fully into account.

The business men's committee, comprising Messrs. Daniel P. Bernheim, Maurice Taylor, and Oswald J. Laliberte, has worked with great tact and persistence, and undoubtedly to excellent effect. It has given a note of encouragement to the directors and stockholders of the company, and has said and done the right things in the right way. The committee has had the constant assistance of Allen S. Richmond.

Representative E. W. Staves has all along been giving quiet assistance to the cause by co-operating with the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration and supplying it with helpful information.

It would be impossible to give too great credit to the State board, which has stuck patiently to the last with one of the most difficult problems it ever handled. The impartiality of the board never has been questioned, and its efforts to keep the mill going as a permanent institution ought not to be overlooked in Southbridge.

The National Textile Labor Relations board did not appear in the case very effectively until after the mill closed Dec. 11, but in the end it prevailed upon the national officers of the U. T. W. to call off the strike. It is only fair to point out that Horace Riviere and Joseph Sylvia worked just as hard for a peaceful settlement during the last few days as anyone else.

Editor George Grant of The Press won the renewed appreciation of his townsmen with his plea to the Hamilton stockholders in Boston on Jan. 15. He has won a place in the history of the company by twice opposing liquidation, at times when the outlook was dark.

The clergy of Southbridge, Catholic and Protestant, have served their people well by counseling peace and good will. Especially in the parishes where the mill workers live has this service been felt and appreciated.

Credit is due the non-striking employees for their patience, restraint, and uncomplaining loyalty, under the direction of good leadership.

The mill is about to open, but the battle to keep it open has by no means been won. Let no one become over-confident, to the point of believing no further efforts are required, for we cannot tell at this hour what yet may develop. The churches have a useful part in the peace-making, and they will not overlook it. The steady workmen, by their example, can do a great deal in repairing the old spirit of harmony in the mill, and we may depend upon them to do it.

PLANS FORMED TO OPEN PLANT NEXT MONDAY

**Hamilton to Resume Work
On Partial Two-Shift
Basis at 7:45 A. M.**

**PEACE IS EXPECTED
Former Employes Asked
To Indicate Plans To
Firm's Overseers**

Plans for the reopening of the Hamilton Woolen Co. Monday on a partial two-shift basis were announced today by Richard Lennihan, president of the concern, following a conference with plant production heads.

Machinery in every possible department will begin to turn at 7:45 a. m. Monday for the first time since Dec. 11, when the mill was closed.

Resumption of work in some divisions of the mill, however, will be delayed necessarily by the long shutdown, the company president added.

Confers With Union

The drawing and spinning departments will reopen Wednesday, Mr. Lennihan said, and the burling and mending divisions as soon after Monday as is practicable. Work in the weave shed will be speeded as much as possible.

Mr. Lennihan said the plant overseers would be at the mill office building from 9 a. m. to noon tomorrow and from 9:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. Sunday. He asked all former employes either to telephone the overseers during the two periods or make a personal visit to the office to signify their intention of returning to work.

The mill president met Miss Jean Gauthier, president of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America, and other union officials at his office today for a conference prior to the opening. She said details of the conference would be discussed at a union meeting tomorrow at 2:30 p. m. in Pilsudski hall.

Former Relations Sought

Prevailing Southbridge sentiment today was that all workers should return to the mill and resume employe relationships which existed prior to the general strike of last September.

The joy which prevailed at the definitely impending reopening and the resultant recovery of gainful employment by 1,000 residents was not marred by any expectancy of sudden demands by former workers which would disrupt the resumption of activities.

Southbridge wanted industrial peace, an opportunity for its citizens to work without interference or favor. The strike, residents said, has been dropped and therefore should be forgotten in the efforts of all employes to show the mill stockholders harmony would reign during a winter of temporary employment, a factor which conceivably could bring about a change of heart on the part of those who voted to liquidate the plant.

JANUARY 26, 1935

Sylvia Forbids Union Members To Notify Firm

**Textile Organizer Says Local Will Return Monday
Without Previous Registration at Plant; Talks
At Session of U. T. W. Chapter in Local Hall**

MILL WILL RESUME OPERATIONS AT 6:45

**Enrolment at Hamilton Described by Officials Of
Company as Progressing 'Well'; Second Period
Scheduled for Tomorrow From 9:30 to 12:30**

The National Textile Labor Relations board today asked Joseph Sylvia, New England organizer of the U. T. W. A., to see to it that members of the Hamilton local return to work at the Hamilton Woolen Co. Monday morning. The News was informed of this action in a telephone conversation this afternoon with Walter B. Taylor, technical adviser of the board, at Washington. Mr. Taylor said the Federal board will back up all peaceful measures to get the mill reopened and to keep it running. If difficulties arise a representative will be sent to Southbridge to assist in getting the woolen company reopened, he said.

Members of Hamilton Local 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America will return to work at the Hamilton Woolen Co. Monday morning but they will not register or otherwise signify their individual intention of resuming their positions, Joseph Sylvia, New England organizer for the U. T. W. A., told The News from union headquarters at Providence, R. I., today.

The woolen company yesterday had requested former employes to notify the firm in person or by telephone whether they would be available for employment Monday. The step was taken to facilitate arrangements for reopening the mill and to enable the management to know how much work must be laid out prior to Monday's opening.

The first registration period was held at the mill from 9 a. m. to noon today and the second is slated for tomorrow from 9:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m.

Richard Lennihan, president of the company, said registrations today were coming in well.

Mr. Lennihan did not say whether any of the registrants were union members but presumably none was, in view of Mr. Sylvia's statement.

Most of the plant, with the exception of the weave shed, had been prepared today for the opening. Mr. Lennihan said the warps would not be attached to the looms until it had been ascertained what weavers would be returned. Insofar as possible, weavers will be given their former types of looms. One of the purposes of the registration was to enable the company to know who the returning weavers are so warps may be placed on looms with which operatives are acquainted.

The plant will open at the customary hour, 6:45 a. m., instead of 7:45, as was announced yesterday.

Members of Hamilton local met at Pilsudski hall at 2:30 p. m. today to discuss their return to work and were addressed by Mr. Sylvia, who left Providence for Southbridge shortly after The News had communicated with him.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1935

370 GET WORK AS MILL OPENS FOR BUSINESS

Resumption of Jobs in
Departments Marked
By Lack of Strife

NIGHT SHIFT BEGUN

Firm Hopes to Have 1,000
Working in 2 Weeks;
U. T. W. Returns

Absence of even the remotest hint of disorder marked the reopening of the Hamilton Woolen Co. at 6:45 a. m. today as 370 employees, trudging through the mill gates while the temperature stood at 25 below zero, returned to their jobs for the first time since the plant closed because of strike violence Dec. 11.

Richard Lennihan, president of the company, said the 370 represented the day shift in the slashing and weaving departments, the only departments where production was resumed.

A night shift in the same two divisions began work at 3:30 p. m. but there was no immediate indication of its size.

The drawing and spinning departments are scheduled to resume operations Wednesday and the burling and mending divisions as soon as possible.

Mr. Lennihan expressed the hope he would have 1,000 persons on the company payroll within two weeks.

The only difficulty which presented itself today came when it was necessary to explain to some employees they would have to be transferred to the night shift temporarily because of physical arrangements beyond the control of the company.

The explanations were accepted without rancor when the situation was understood, Mr. Lennihan said.

Union employees were among those who were given work, they having signified to plant overseers yesterday that they intended to resume their jobs.

Union members were urged to register when they were addressed by Joseph Sylvia of Pawtucket, R. I., New England organizer for the United Textile Workers of America, in Pilsudski hall Saturday afternoon. Mr. Sylvia's plea was a reversal of his stand against registration, which he announced earlier in the day.

The hall was thronged when Mr. Sylvia made his plea and added the urging that there be no demonstrations or disorder.

Shocked Southbridge

At Southbridge (pop.: 14,000), 57 miles southwest of Boston, the Quinebaug River winds across a county line, draws water from Walker Pond and Globe Brook above the town, then drops 165 ft. There the early settlers of Southbridge built a



Southbridge Evening News

RICHARD LENNIHAN

His shut-down was forever.

factory which became Hamilton Woolen Co. The wheels of the little factory had hummed without interruption for 104 years when last month they suddenly stopped. One day last week the town of Southbridge was shocked with the news: "Hamilton Woolen is shut down forever!"

Earlier that day a little group of elderly, well-dressed Massachusetts folk met in a room in Boston's Chamber of Commerce Building. Stockholders in Hamilton Woolen, they represented in person or by



Southbridge Evening News

MAYOR GEORGE GRANT

His citizens crawled dolefully into bed.

proxy all but a small fraction of the company's 30,855 shares. A ruddy, kind-faced man with curly black hair got up to speak. He was Richard Lennihan who six years ago quit his job as assistant to Dean Wallace Donham of Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, persuaded Hamilton Woolen to let him run the company instead of closing down after two years' heavy losses. In a firm clear voice he outlined the facts which had led up to last week's meeting.

A horde of labor agitators had swarmed into Southbridge when the cotton textile strike broke out last September. They surrounded the Hamilton mill, shouting: "Shut this mill or we'll shut it for you." President Lennihan decided to close down until trouble passed. When the mill reopened, he found that a union affiliated with the United Textile Workers' Union had been formed among some of his 1,000 employees. An incipient strike was headed off by the State Board of Conciliation and

Arbitration. Then suddenly the union, by a secret vote and in violation of a pledge to cooperate with the State Board, called its 300 members out on strike. The factory was picketed, non-union workers were threatened with violence, their homes stoned. Rather than limp along with a crippled staff, the mill closed down, has remained closed ever since. The question before the stockholders was: should the company submit to a closed shop or should it liquidate its assets and go permanently out of business?

A pale, black-haired woolen worker named George La Plante, representing a protective association of Hamilton's non-union labor, jumped to his feet, shouted: "Are we 700 loyal men and women to be sacrificed for the sake of the 300?"

"A bunch of gangsters came in and stirred up all the trouble," echoed another woolen worker.

Stockholder George Grant, Mayor of Southbridge and publisher of the Southbridge Press (weekly) uprose. Shaken with emotion, he pleaded to keep the unit running. "If you close down, these people will be forced out into the world, and won't know where to turn. Forced out into the world—" His voice broke and tears streamed down his cheeks. "Excuse me, gentlemen," he stammered, and sat down.

In deep silence a vote was taken. The result was 26,589-to-815 in favor of liquidating the business of the company, distributing its assets among the stockholders. No one moved or spoke when the announcement was made. Then President Lennihan rose to assure those present that the directors would do their best to prevent a hasty sale of the plant, would try to dispose of it as a unit. That night nearly one-fifth of the people of Southbridge crawled into bed with nothing to look forward to but the dole.



HAMILTON MILLS TO STEVENS

Woolen Company Will Continue Operations With Same Personnel

Richard Lennihan, president of the Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc. today announced that its inventory, active machinery and buildings of the operating group have been sold to interests connected with J. P. Stevens & Co.

Mr. Lennihan stated further: "In order to facilitate the transfer of the operating properties a group of manufacturers and merchants, as represented by Messrs. Daniel P. Bernheim, Oswald J. Laliberte, Ira Mosher, and Maurice A. Taylor, have purchased the so-called Top mill on River st., the Central Mills, the houses at 469 Hamilton st. and 728 Main st. as well as the so-called Ten-acre lot, including the Hamilton baseball field.

"Details of these sales are being worked out by attorneys and will be announced as soon as practicable."

Mr. Bernheim, chairman of the business men's committee, advised The News today that Ira Mosher conducted the negotiations for the purchase of the additional

The following statement was given The News this afternoon by Ames Stevens of the United States Bunting Co. of Lowell, who has had an active part in the negotiations:

"The purchasers of the manufacturing property of the Hamilton Woolen Co. intend to operate in Southbridge as much machinery as will be warranted by business conditions and the co-operation received from the town and the employees. No immediate changes in personnel are expected."

Mr. Stevens said he preferred not to amplify this statement in any way. No one will be sent to Southbridge at present to take charge, and it may be inferred from the statement the present management, except for Mr. Lennihan, will carry on.

No decision has been made as to a new name for the mill.

Mr. Stevens is likely to visit Southbridge within a few days to look over the situation.

properties, in order to make possible the sale of the mill to the Stevens group. Consummation of the larger deal called for quick action locally, and Mr. Mosher was prompt.

Efforts will be made by the business men who are becoming the owners of the additional properties to get new industries started in the two mill buildings.

The arrangements made by Mr. Lennihan and approved by a meeting of Hamilton directors in Boston yesterday, provide that the mill will continue in operation as at present, with the same office personnel and working force.

New Patterns Being Designed

Immediately after the stockholders voted on Jan. 15 to liquidate the property, Mr. Lennihan began negotiations with the Stevens interests, and the sale has been accomplished in just four weeks.

Designers started work this morning on new patterns for the fall trade, and samples will be made up at once. It is likely the mill will continue on production lines quite similar to those of the recent past.

Mr. and Mrs. Lennihan will leave on Saturday for an ocean trip to California by way of the Panama canal, and will not return until April. Ross G. Walker, treasurer of the Hamilton Woolen Co. will remain in the offices for the present to assist the new management.

Mr. Lennihan's resignation from the presidency of the Southbridge Savings bank will continue to lie on the table, for consideration at some future time. Mr. Walker will keep up his association with the bank as a director for a while longer.

The name of the Hamilton Woolen Co. Inc. will disappear in the final steps of liquidation. The new owners may use the term "Hamilton fabrics" as well as such trade names as "Tropicool."

The name to be given the local operating company has not been announced, and Mr. Lennihan has no idea what it will be. The Stevens name may be used, as it is with the other mills owned by the company in a number of New England towns. Someone has suggested that the Southbridge Worsted Co. would make an acceptable name.

Stevens Mills are Listed

The Stevens group is one of the most important in the textile industry in New England, and its sales operations are conducted by J. P. Stevens & Co., 44 Leonard St., New York. Included in the group are the following companies:

The Stevens Linen Works, Webster, Nathaniel Stevens, president; H. W. Crawford, manager. Capital \$1,050,000. Production and equipment, linen crash



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1935

Entered as second class matter
Post Office, Southbridge, Mass.

TWO CENTS

ALL IS SOLD S INTERESTS

knitting and towels; 646 narrow looms, 9,084 spindles, 19 cards.

M. T. Stevens & Co., North Andover, Mass. Outstanding capital \$3,179,100. Nathaniel Stevens, president; Abbot Stevens, treasurer; Moses T. Stevens, secretary and vice-president; Carl Vetter, general manager. This company owns the Stevens Mills and the Osgood Mills, North Andover; Marland Mills, Andover; Pentucket Mills, Haverhill, Mass.; Merrimack Woolen Mills, Dracut Mass.; Franklin Mills, Franklin, N. H.; Peacedale Mfg. Co., Peacedale, R. I.; Stowe Woolen Mills, Gleasondale, Mass.; Hockanum Mills Co., Rockville, Conn., and the United States Bunting Co., Lowell.

Employ Thousands of Workers

The Hockanum Mills Co. in Rockville, controlled by M. T. Stevens & Co., is itself a far-flung organization with an authorized capital of \$6,000,000. It controls the Hockanum Co., Springfield Mfg. Co., New England Co., Minterburn Mills Co., and American Mills Co., including Daniels Mfg. Co. The products of these companies include fabrics for men's wear and women's wear, and auto upholstery materials.

The Stevens interests employ thousands of workers and produce textiles of almost every variety.

The sale of the Hamilton property to the Stevens group includes all the land and buildings where active operations are now conducted, as well as the water power rights.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1935

A COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

It would be well for all of us to read carefully again the statement given out yesterday afternoon by Ames Stevens, following the announcement by Richard Lennihan that the Hamilton mill had been sold to the textile manufacturing group with which Mr. Stevens is connected:

"The purchasers of the manufacturing property of the Hamilton Woolen Co. intend to operate in Southbridge as much machinery as will be warranted by business conditions and the co-operation received from the town and the employees. No immediate changes in personnel are expected."

We have reason to believe the new owners will do everything they can for the Hamilton mill as an institution, for the employees, and for Southbridge. They propose to maintain a policy of good working conditions and standard wages, and this policy will be administered with tact and fairness.

Granted that this very successful group will do its part, the rest is up to the town and the employees. We have had an opportunity during the past few weeks to consider the disastrous consequences that would certainly befall us if the mill were to be permanently closed. Now we must all realize a very large part of the responsibility for keeping the mill running rests upon us—upon the co-operation of leading citizens and public officials, as well as of employees.

We hope and believe the Stevens labor policy will be wise and successful. Other things being equal, the most prosperous business of any kind is one where workers are contented and fully responsive to intelligent and sympathetic treatment.

So with a fresh start under favorable conditions, with our lessons well learned, we have a right to expect as favorable a future at the mill as general business conditions will permit, provided everyone does his part.

At the stockholders' meeting in Boston four weeks ago yesterday, after the vote to liquidate had been taken, Richard Lennihan promised Daniel P. Bernheim he would consider the welfare of Southbridge in disposing of the property. How well he kept that promise we now know.

In the general relief over the favorable turn of events, including the acquisition by Ira Mosher's group of two excellent mill properties, we ought not to pass over the cruel twist of fate that has turned Richard Lennihan out of the establishment which he rescued from failure in 1928, and built up through the depression years into one of the best textile mills in New England.

Mr. Lennihan is the victim of an epidemic of unrest, which struck him as unexpectedly and remorselessly as though he had been caught by an epidemic of typhoid. We hope the fever of unrest has burned itself out in our community.

Fate is often unjust, but happily in this case it has not impaired the undoubted abilities or the standing of Mr. Lennihan and his faithful associate, Ross G. Walker. New successes await men who will not be beaten by adversity.

Lennihan Ends Service; Sells Unused Machinery

Today was Richard Lennihan's last day at the Hamilton Woolen Co., and he devoted a good part of it to selling machinery in the River st. Top mill that has been standing unused for several years.

This evening Mr. and Mrs. Lennihan leave for New York, and on Saturday they are sailing for California on the Grace liner Santa Elena.

The news of the sale of the mill to the Stevens group and of the plans for continued operations was received with satisfaction and relief by the employees. There were many expressions of regret, however, at the departure of Mr. Lennihan.

More Payrolls is Program Of Mosher Group, Buyers Of Two Hamilton Co. Mills

Stock Company to Own and Administer Properties
Not Sold to Stevens Interests Contemplated;
Sentiment Favors Athletic Field for Wells

How to make more payrolls for Southbridge is the essential consideration in the problem of the group headed by Ira Mosher that has taken over two mills and other local property of the Hamilton Woolen Co.

Mr. Mosher returned this morning from a trip to Chicago, and he expects to meet as soon as possible, perhaps this afternoon, the business men's committee including Messrs. Bernheim, Taylor, and Laliberte. Until the four men have time to formulate plans there will be nothing definite to give out.

It is quite likely a company will be formed to own and administer the properties, including the River st. mill, the Central Mills, the Ten-acre tract, the athletic field, and the two houses—one occupied by Ross Walker, and the guest house,

formerly used by the late James F. Gable. Stock in the company will be sold locally to as many persons as are interested.

The houses undoubtedly will be offered for sale at once. Some real estate operator may make a bid for the Ten-acre tract. The two mill buildings will be made available for new industries.

The committee has learned of sentiment in favor of turning over the athletic field to the High school, which long has been handicapped by the lack of a playing field. It is generally felt that the baseball grounds should be saved for the town, and improved for more extensive use.

SOUTHBRIDGE

EVENING NEWS

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS., WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1935

HAMILTON WOOLEN PAYS \$35 DIVIDEND

Additional \$5 Liquidation Payment to be Made Later on Shares

Directors of the Hamilton Woolen Co. announced today they had declared a first liquidating dividend of \$35 a share.

The dividend will be payable to stockholders today through the New England Trust Co., Boston.

An additional dividend of approximately \$5, to be paid later, will conclude the financial affairs of the company.

Stockholders of the company were notified of the dividend action of the directors in the following letter:

Ames Paid Cash

"At the meeting of the stockholders held Jan. 15, 1935, at which over 92 percent of the shares outstanding were represented, the board of directors reported the facts set forth in its letter to stockholders dated Dec. 22, 1934, and recommended liquidation of the company. The whole situation was discussed at length and the matter was submitted to the stockholders for final determination. The vote was 26,589 shares (of which 731 were represented by the owners in person) in favor of liquidation to 815 in opposition thereto. The board of directors was authorized to proceed with the winding up of the affairs of the corporation and, in connection therewith, to convert the assets of the corporation into cash in such manner as it considered for the best interests of the stockholders and to decide all questions incidental to liquidation and dissolution.

"At an adjourned session of the meeting held March 5, 1935, there was presented an offer from the Ames Worsted Co., of \$1,400,000 in cash for the inventory, real estate and other fixed assets, with certain specific exceptions, the inventory and unfilled orders to be taken over as of Dec. 31, 1934, and the operation of the business subsequently to that date to be for the account of and at risk of the purchaser, were included in the above mentioned offer from the Ames Worsted Co. In accordance with the recommendation of the board of directors, the meeting voted to approve the acceptance of the said offers and to sell the properties as therein set forth.

\$1,079,925 Distributed.

"Both of the above mentioned sales have now been consummated and the cash payments have been received. Other capital assets have been disposed of and the sum of \$5,922 has been realized thereon. The bank loans, accounts payable and most of the other known obligations of the company have been paid. The assets of the company now consist of cash, accounts receivable and a small amount of tangible property, having in the aggregate an estimated realizable value of approximately \$1,313,000. The liabilities, including Federal and State taxes, unliquidated obligations and reserves for expenses of liquidation and for contingencies are estimated at approximately \$68,500. On the basis of these estimates, there will be about \$1,244,500 available for the stockholders, which means about \$40 per share on the 30,855 shares outstanding. The board of directors has considered it safe and proper to distribute immediately \$1,079,925 pro rata to the stockholders, or \$35 per share, as a first liquidating dividend; and has authorized the payment of May 1, 1935, of such dividend through the New England Trust Co., 135 Devonshire st., Boston, Mass., on or after May 1, 1935, for payment of the above mentioned liquidating dividend.

Is From Capital Only

"It is expected that a further dividend of approximately \$5 per share will be paid in due course. It should be remembered, however, that both the amounts which will be realized on liquidation of the remaining assets and the amounts that will have to be paid out in settlement of tax liabilities and other obligations are mere estimates. It should also be borne in mind that considerable time will be required in collecting the receivables and disposing of the remaining physical assets and in procuring a final determination and settlement of the remaining liabilities, all of which must be done before a final distribution can be made to the stockholders.

"The company is advised by its accountants that the distributions referred to in this letter represent distributions of capital only and are not made up in any part of earnings or income of the corporation. This information is furnished for use by the stockholders in the preparation of their respective tax returns.

"Yours very truly,

"Board of Directors,

"HAMILTON WOOLEN CO., Inc."



HAMILTON WOOLEN CO., GLOBE VILLAGE.

Globe Village took its name from the Globe Mfg. Co., which, in the early days of the town, carried on manufacturing in this section. The Hamilton Woolen Company is the modern successor of this early concern. The views show: (1.) The large mill-dam, which presents a beautiful sight when the water, after a heavy rainfall, rushes over the flash-board and through the waste-way; (2.) Print Works (so-called), and the iron-bridge; (3.) residence of C. W. Hill, Agent and Superintendent of the Company; (4.) a general view of Globe Village and the several mills of the Company, with "Big Pond," and in the distance, Clemence Hill and some of the hills in Charlton; (5.) "Big" Mill, Mill street; (6.) "New" Mill, near depot.

Hamilton Woolen Co. "Lower Mill," Southbridge, Mass. [insurance map]



Item Information

- Title:** Hamilton Woolen Co. "Lower Mill," Southbridge, Mass. [insurance map]
- Description:** Associated Mutual Insurance Companies. Hamilton Woolen Co. "Lower Mill," Southbridge, Mass. Boston, Mass.: Associated Mutual Insurance Companies, 1926. Surveyed June 4, 1919. Surveyed by S. S. Robertson. Additional data, September 29, 1919. Corrected from Dept. Data to December 14, 1926. 1 sheet. Includes plan of buildings (with dimensions), elevation views of individual buildings (with functions of building floors and rooms), isometric view of buildings, and surroundings, including some dwellings. Also includes description of property, power and fuel, stock and product, and existing water sources and fire protection resources. Serial number 13429, replaces 12770 (original tracing). Index number 11498. Scale 1:600, 1 in. = 50 ft. 53.5 x 67 cm. (OCLC)
- Author:** [Associated Mutual Insurance Companies](#)
- Date:** 1926
- Format:** [Maps/Atlases](#)
- Genre:** [Fire insurance maps](#)
- Location:** [American Textile History Museum](#)
- Collection (local):** [Osborne Library](#)
- Subjects:** [Textile factories](#)
[Fire risk assessment](#)
[Insurance surveys](#)
[Woolen and worsted manufacture](#)
[Hamilton Woolen Company](#)
[Hamilton Woolen Company Lower Mill \(Southbridge, Mass.\)](#)
- Places:** [Massachusetts](#) > [Worcester \(county\)](#) > [Southbridge](#)

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Hamilton Woolen Company Collection

Catalog Record

Mss 446 1822-1936

Series AE: Stock ledgers; Series K: Labor records

Series L: Production records; Box PC-3: Memos and clippings

The Hamilton Woolen Company Collection contains the records of a woolen manufacturer in Southbridge, Massachusetts, which succeeded the Wolcott Woolen Company in 1831. Workers went on strike in 1934 and the company was liquidated shortly thereafter. The collection contains sporadic labor records (payroll and time books) from 1824 to 1870, showing steadily increasing numbers of women working in the factory.

The collection provides a picture of the cross section of women's economic roles in the waning days of the New England textile industry. By the early twentieth century, women are present in all layers of the company records. Women comprise more than a third of the stockholders and have entered the factory's administrative offices in clerical jobs. By far the greatest number of women associated with Hamilton, however, are the factory workers who comprised the majority of its 1100 employees.

In 1934, the company was hit with a general strike with demands of higher wages, a smaller machine load, equal distribution of work, and a union shop. Company records and newspaper clippings in the collection make it clear that women were active in all aspects of the strike. The strike was led by Miss Janviers (Jean) Gauthier, President of United Textile Workers of America, Local # 2324, who had formulated the demands. Several non-union women workers complained of violence and intimidation, which resulted in arrests of women union members. Miss Anna Weinstock, a representative of the National Textile Relations Board, unsuccessfully attempted to mediate between the parties. When the company closed rather than accept a union shop, it gave as its reason the alleged violence of union workers.

Wage and time accounting

Payrolls, time book and production records: Volumes KA 1(1825-1830); KB 1 (1928); KC1-2 (1861-1879); KD 1, (1924-1929); KE1 (1927); LA-1 (1823-1838)

Employee relations materials including labor organization

Memoranda and clippings on strike: Box PC 3 (1934)

Family and financial records

Stock Ledgers: volumes AE 1-3 (1845-1911)

Stockholder Lists: Volume AF1

thereby enabling a future business historian to trace the firm's history down to its termination in 1935. The collection constitutes a valuable addition to the material on Business History now assembled at the Harvard Business School.

Wanted: Material on the History of Marketing

SEVERAL officers of the Society recently interviewed members of the Faculty of the Harvard Business School in order to ascertain to what extent historical material would be of special value in the course work of the School. This inquiry had a two-fold purpose: (1) to discover wherein those working in the field of Business History might be of greatest immediate service to current teaching and research in business subjects; and (2) to obtain guidance in the collection and preservation of documentary material pertaining to Business History. It was, in short, an attempt to survey some of the current needs of Business History.

It is evident from the results of the inquiry that there is an immediate need to collect and study historical material on many particular phases of business. The one topic on which information is especially wanted is a history of marketing. Despite the importance of the distribution of commodities in modern society, there is a surprising lack of factual data regarding the major historical developments in the field, and there is reason to believe that an adequate history of marketing in America would not only be of general interest but would also be of direct value in solving some of the distribution problems which confront business today.

The Business Historical Society desires to be of service in the preparation of a history of marketing, and members of the Society are urged to assist in the collection of material. We want to know, for example, when and where wholesalers split off from the importers in eastern and southern ports, leaving the latter to specialize in foreign trade; when and why retailing and wholesaling became generally divorced; how wholesalers established connections with new markets as the nation expanded to the west; and what the circumstances were which led to the emergence of such specialists as brokers, selling agents, jobbers, commission dealers, warehousemen, credit houses like Dun and Bradstreet, and the ubiquitous traveling salesman. We also want

Records of the Hamilton Woolen Company, 1831-1935

THANKS to the efforts of several officers of the Business Historical Society and members of the Faculty of the Harvard Business School, Baker Library has been given ten cases of records relating to the Hamilton Woolen Company of Southbridge, Massachusetts. This firm was incorporated in 1831 and operated continuously until 1935 when the stockholders decided to dispose of its assets. Its history therefore extends over more than a century, and, while not all of its records have been preserved, a few date from the opening of the business, and the account books for the period since 1845 are available. The collection stored, therefore, throws much light upon the history of woolen manufacture in New England.

A complete list of the items in the collection is not yet available, but the following list gives some idea of its contents:

- Minutes of Stockholders' Meetings, 1831-99
- Minutes of Directors' Meetings, 1845-99
- Treasurer's Reports to Stockholders, 1851-97
- Journals and Ledgers, 1845-1927
- Mill Journals, 1853-86
- Treasurer's Journals, 1864-1927
- Day Books, 1913-27
- Monthly Trial Balances, 1846-1935
- Cost Ledgers and Labor Records, 1913-27
- Vouchers Register, 1886-1935
- Stock Transfers
- Summary of Goods Sold, 1910-29
- Comparison of Costs, 1911-20
- Inventories, 1915-28
- Auditor's Reports, 1928-35
- Photographs
- Samples of delaines
- Federal Tax Returns
- Plant Appraisals
- Miscellaneous Papers and Memoranda

Certain records relating to the firm's recent history have been retained temporarily by the Ames Worsted Company, which purchased part of the assets of the Hamilton Woolen Company. These records, however, will eventually be turned over to Baker Library,

Slaughter of the Innocents

The National Significance of Labor Organization Through Violence as Illustrated by the Closing of Hamilton Woolen Mills

By RICHARD DONHAM

were on a mutually satisfactory basis. When occasion arose the employees found means of making known their wishes to the management.

On Sept. 4, 1934, the general textile strike was called. All Hamilton employees reported for work. At 10.00 p. m., September 6, a number of pickets, estimated at 200, arrived in Southbridge from out of town. The management sent home workers on the night shift by the back gate. The next morning the mill opened as usual with a full labor force. Large numbers of pickets from out of town appeared during the morning in flying squads. The mill was forced to close at 11.00 a. m.

Details of the Hamilton Woolen Case

From September 7 to September 21 outside organizers held frequent meetings in an attempt to establish a union. Organizers also visited workers at their homes, stating that the mill was going to be unionized and that jobs would be available only for union members. Of no less importance were the reported representations of the organizers that they were apostles of President Roosevelt, whose wish it was that all working men should become union members. The combined tactics were successful and Local Number 2324 of the United Textile Workers of America had its beginnings. Some of the Hamilton workers began to picket the mill.

On Saturday, September 22, President Roosevelt issued his statement, based on the Winant report, asking workers to go back to their jobs and employers to rehire without discrimination. The Hamilton plant was reopened on Monday. On Wednesday,

to justify the legality of the final walkout order, as representing a local strike vote rather than one taken by outsiders, when Sam Gaudin, president of the local union, was himself at work and knew nothing about it until she was called out with the rest. Mr. Dickens stood silent and Joseph Sylvia, New England UTWA organizer, answered for him. His reply is quoted from the Southbridge Evening News, Dec. 14, 1934:

"It is none of your business . . . who took the strike vote or who called the strike." He concluded that he was interested in the welfare of members of the union, and not in that of strike-breakers, and that he regarded himself as the instrument of the President of the United States in trying to fulfill the President's desire.

The weeks that intervened between November 14, the date of the last strike, and December 11, the day on which the Hamilton Woolen Company closed permanently, were marked by continued violence. On one occasion dynamite was found near the mill. Nevertheless, the number of employees steadily increased until approximately two-thirds of the normal number were working. Union organizational activities, however, had been strategically directed and the strike resulted in tying up the mill, perhaps the most essential department of the mill. Pres. Levinson and the directors of the company came to realize that continued successful operations would be impossible if conditions were not corrected. In accordance with its obligation to its loyal workers and to the community, the company issued two statements on November 19.

The Company States Its Views

The first of these reviewed the situation since September 6 as the management understood it, and placed the major issues before the town, concluding with these paragraphs:

"The management of Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc., is not willing to continue to operate in Southbridge under conditions which threaten the safety of the lives and property of its employees and their families. It will not attempt to operate a closed shop.

In the last analysis the question whether Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc., continues to operate in Southbridge will be determined by the public opinion of that community of which the employees of the company constitute an important part.

The second notice, a brief one, was addressed to employees. It stated that the union's demand for a closed shop had been explained by its representative to mean that no one could work in the mill unless he was a member of the union. This demand had been definitively refused by the corporation's board of directors which had voted to run an open shop under conditions safe for its employees or quit in Southbridge.

Mass picketing continued. In spite of the presence of State police-dispatched-to-the-town, but Governor Joseph B. Ely to aid in preserving order, outbreaks of violence were frequent. The record of arrests over the next few weeks is a long and amazing one. The tactics which had their origin in the flying squadrons soon were adopted to a greater or lesser extent by both factions of employees.

Various conferences between the union and the management were held during the last week in November and the first week in December with the aid of representatives of the National Textile Relations Board as well as the State Board. No settlement was reached, although at one meeting Mr. Levinson offered to take back as many strikers as possible, leaving to the State Board the problem of disposing of any unabsorbed surplus by some work-sharing plan. Although this suggestion was satisfactory to the State Board, including the representatives from Washington, it was summarily refused by the union.

"Discrimination" the Charge

The company and the union remained deadlocked on two issues. The union insisted on a closed shop and the rehiring of all employees without discrimination. It defined the term "without discrimination" to mean the rehiring of all workers in the same jobs which they had held September 6, at the time of the first strike. The company refused to operate a closed shop while a majority of its employees were unwilling to join the union, and it refused to rehire without discrimination as of September 6. Since it is probable that the strike could have been settled had it not been for the deadlock over this last point, the position taken by the company needs closer scrutiny.

Consider the make-up of the working force at the Hamilton mill. During the week which ended with the closing of the plant September 6, 866 people were at work regularly. In the three days preceding the last strike, 973 people were at work. On December 11, when the mill closed for good, 730 people were at work. This last group consisted of 383 loyal workers, many of whom had been promoted to better jobs in positions left vacant by strikers, and 137 new workers, residents of the community who wanted to work, but who had not worked regularly at the mill before. They were not trained to the company's methods. Altogether, the labor force presented a group far below pre-strike standards in efficiency.

To re-employ all strikers without discrimination meant:

Continued on Page Sixteen

Authors in This Issue

Arthur P. Chew's article on "Imperialism and the Balance of Trade" follows several studies on economics in the agricultural situation during the past year. He is connected with the Department of Agriculture, located in Washington.

G. Tyler Wood is a partner in a Stock Exchange firm specializing in bonds, and banking and insurance stocks. He has devoted much of his time to studies in the money and credit field.

THE Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc., of Southbridge, Mass., closed its doors Dec. 11, 1934. On Jan. 15, 1935, the stockholders voted overwhelmingly to liquidate. One thousand workers were affected directly, 10,000 people indirectly; for this was the town's second largest industry. It had been in operation over a century. Unfortunately as the situation was, however, it would have had little new value were it not for one fact: This closing did not mark the death of a marginal producer, of an unprofitable enterprise. Hamilton Woolen Co., Inc., was not only profitable, but outstandingly so in the industry. At the time of closing, its goods were in active demand, its cash and current position was strong. Yet the vote for liquidation was 28,389 to 815.

Why? The decision was the culmination of a bitter struggle between the management and the United Textile Workers of America. But it was not made by a management unfriendly to labor; it was not born of a selfish, inhuman stubbornness. The very employees who, at the stockholders' meeting, pleaded for delay and further consideration were high in their praise of the company's executives. They were grateful for fair treatment and for unusually steady employment. They were willing and anxious to place their future destiny in the hands of Richard Lennihan, president of the company. For a proper understanding of the decision, therefore, some additional background is necessary. First, an acquaintance with the Administration's attitude toward labor; second, a knowledge of the company's history during the years immediately preceding and included in the depression; third, a familiarity with the sequence of events leading up to the closing of the mill in mid-December.

PRES. RICHARD LENNIHAN

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The Administration and Labor—Section 7a

The Administration at Washington is friendly to labor. Disturbed by unemployment, and by sweat-shop conditions, "yellow dog" contracts, and other abuses, it is genuinely interested in bettering the working man's lot. To this end Section 7a, National Industrial Recovery Act, was composed. Inherent and basic to the Administration's general attitude toward labor, are at least two assumptions: (1) That labor if permitted to organize, will shortly better its own status; (2) that the main obstacle in the path of such a movement is the employer, traditionally opposed to organized labor. Accordingly, Section 7a specifies the right of employees to organize and to select representatives of their own choosing without interference, restraint or coercion by employers or their agents. The attempt to remove influences which have restricted the voluntary organization of labor in the past has much to recommend it. But in concentrating on preventing interference from employers the Administration has overlooked another source of danger perhaps even more important. Professions labor organizations have a selfish interest in the situation than the employers of labor. Previously an important aid, in the main, constructive left wing force, they find themselves suddenly moved into the center of the social stage. This overnight shift leaves them a little less than ideal. It seems too good to be true; it probably will not last. Their immediate concern, therefore, is to capitalize the opportunity to the fullest extent. Speed is placed at a premium. Boldness, far-reaching social changes are always subliminally resented by those who are, or think they are, adversely affected. At the same time, those favorably affected will overstep the bounds of propriety in pressing the advantages of their new-found power.

Labor Unrest Exemplified

Speed in the organization of labor, then, means much violence. It means unrest and uncertainty, as does any rapid change, at a time when industry and labor alike are striving for stability. Sustained success from a profit's point of view and successful employer-employee relationships more often go together than not, and relatively steady employment, both as cause and effect, is ordinarily found to accompany these conditions. But organization through the strike weapon is generally much easier among groups of individuals who have enjoyed steady employment than among groups of individuals who are afraid of losing their jobs. Therefore, the activities of labor organizations will be directed in large part toward the unionization of companies already on amicable terms with labor rather than at the dark spots in industry which the Administration is anxious to see cleaned up. Also, in preference to admitting defeat at one of these focal points, union organizers will ruthlessly sacrifice the local workers. To the organizers these workers are merely pawns killed in action for the good of a greater cause.

The experience of the Hamilton Woolen Co. is a case in point. In 1877, following three years of substantial operating losses, the then management of the corporation recommended its liquidation. Steady employment for anything like a full labor force was a thing of the past. The group which constitutes the present management felt that the mill could be made profitable, and at a stockholders' meeting in February, 1923, this group won out. The new management discontinued the old line of heavy serges, for which demand was fast waning, and introduced new lines of style merchandise. Old machinery was scrapped, new machinery installed, excess real estate sold, plant improved, and overhead reduced. In 1928, the first year of operation under the new regime, a profit of \$45,000 was reported. From then on steady progress was made. Profits in 1933 amounted to \$283,000, or \$9.17 per share.

During this period, in fact down to the fall of 1934, the mill was in constant operation and employment was steady; particularly so in comparison to other units in the industry. No union, company, or trade existed, but relations with employees

September 26, in answer to the company's attitude that the mill was to be a closed shop, the company posted a notice to employees saying that neither membership nor non-membership in a union would affect a worker's ability to keep a job in the mill. That evening a strike was voted by the Hamilton local, effective the following day. The charge was discrimination. According to executives of the company, workers had been taken in gradually as jobs were available regardless of their activities during the period when the mill was closed. The truth of this statement cannot be established without an elaborate study of company and union records. Nevertheless, it can be pointed out that no manufacturing concern employing 1000 workers can start up after a three-week shut-down exactly where it left off. Until the flow of work has been re-established, depending on the particular jobs available, some union men will be re-employed before and some after non-union men. At the time the second strike was called the Hamilton mill had not attained a complete resumption of operations.

The mill opened as usual on Thursday, with many people at work and many pickets at the gates. At the close of the day shift local police were unable to prevent a number of cases of violence. On Friday an oral agreement was reached with the assistance of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, under which the company agreed to re-employ, wherever possible, all those who had been on the payroll at the time of the first shut-down. Also, machinery was set up for arbitration of grievances. In cases of dispute all matters were to be referred to the State Board for arbitration before a strike could be called.

The Third Strike Call

Between October 2 and November 13 the company accepted large orders at no profit in order to speed up the process of re-employment. On November 14, a strike was called at the close of the day shift. Damage was done to work in process by union employees as they left their machines. Complete destruction of a substantial part of the work in process was averted only by prompt action on the part of loyal employees. Executives of the Hamilton Woolen Co. said the strike was called without warning. They were aware of no unsettled cases in dispute and no cases had been referred to the State Board. Officials of the local union refused to confer with the management. Two days later the management received a letter setting forth the demands of the strikers as follows: (1) Union shop; (2) Reduction in machine load; (3) Increase in wages; (4) Equal distribution of work.

In view of the fact that the union later asserted that unsettled grievances did exist and that the company had been warned of the strike, testimony by union officials at a hearing in Southbridge is of import. According to Ira Dickens, central Massachusetts organizer of the UTWA, a strike vote was taken on a Sunday night early in November, and warning was given that a strike would be called on Thursday if grievances were not adjusted by that time. Then, Mr. Dickens said, one of the Selectmen of the town brought word from the company's president that all union members would be taken back within ten days. The Selectmen requested that the strike be delayed until the expiration of that period.

Although the union agreed and no new grievances were reported to the management, the strike came in eight days.

Following Mr. Dickens' testimony, George La Plante, of the Hamilton Employees Protective Association, a non-union organization representing the majority of the company's workers, came to the platform with a question. He asked Mr. Dickens

Hamilton Woolen
Mill Strike

Commodities Nervous Pending Gold Decision

Grain Prices Continue to Ignore Tight Position—Cotton Crop Further Restricted Under 1935 Quota

Grains Grain and other commodity markets early last week began to ask themselves what the decision of the Supreme Court would do in the gold-clause case and then answered the question to the effect that the legislation would be declared unconstitutional. From this supposition it was easy to conclude that steps would then be taken to revise the dollar to its former content of 23.25 grains of gold, which should mean a drop in commodity prices. The rush in the foreign markets to buy dollar exchange strengthened this belief, and for a little while the commodity markets were under a liquidating pressure. But the folly of speculating on the possibility of a court decision and the later realization that the chances for the legislation being upheld are as good as those against it threw a damper on the liquidating movement and prices began retracing their downward course.

Statistically, the grain position is strong, but so long as the gold question is pending, a nervous market may be expected. But, perhaps when it is all over the market may see the meaning of General Grant when he said that his greatest worries always proved to be the things that did not happen. The visible supply of wheat for the week ending January 12 showed a decrease of 3,072,000 bushels of wheat in the week, bringing the total to 78,287,000 bushels, which is 31,000,000 less than the corresponding date of 1934. It is against precedent for the wheat visible to increase at this time of the season, and the small holdings on the farms give present rates of receipts and withdrawals the visible would be practically exhausted by the end of the season. It is not to be expected that this will happen because commercial mills will draw more freely on their stores, but even these holdings are smaller than a year ago.

May wheat continues to sell at a substantial premium over July, which virtually amounts to asking elevators to carry wheat for July delivery for nothing and even pay for the privilege. This can be explained only on the market supposition that for the remainder of this season cash wheat will be scarce and the next crop relatively large. Crop and weather reports continue to bear out this supposition provided one shuts his eyes to that dry belt extending from the northern border to the Texas Panhandle and including eastern Montana, western parts of North and South Dakota, western Nebraska, Kansas, the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles, all of which amounts to about one-third of the wheat area. Speculation on the strength of the wheat crop must be based upon faith that nature will yet come to the rescue of the wheat.

World exports fail to show any increased demand in Europe even though grain statisticians had predicted an increase. Possibly this may mean a holding off in expectation that Argentina will again push out its crop and again make a buyers' market. Canada, notwithstanding the large visible supply and a tariff differential over ex-empire wheat, still holds a peg at 80 cents. Having once adopted a similar practice and are now carrying on with cotton, we are not in position to say anything except to remark that we finally cleared out the wheat surplus at a heavy loss, and perhaps we would be glad to get from under the cotton burden without a similar experience. Railroads have refused to lower freight rates on wheat from the Pacific Northwest for livestock feed, and that may make a market for a limited amount of low grade wheat from Canada, but that will not be wheat lendable on contracts. The world wheat situation is not very healthy if Canada should follow examples of Argentina and clear out its surplus even "at the market." The story of corn and other livestock feed can be told in this one sentence, "Short supply and steadily decreasing values."

Range of prices for the week follows:

	High	Low	Last	Adv.	Dec.	High	Low
May wheat	91	88	89	1	1	87	86
July wheat	81	78	79	1	1	77	76
September wheat	89	84	87	1	1	83	82
May corn	81	78	79	1	1	77	76
September corn	81	78	79	1	1	77	76
May oats	53	50	52	1	1	49	48
July oats	48	45	46	1	1	44	43
September oats	42	41	42	1	1	40	39
May rye	68	61	66	1	1	60	59
July rye	72	66	68	1	1	64	63

Cotton Quotas to be issued for cotton to be produced in 1935 total 10,500,000 standard bales, commonly reckoned as 500 pounds, but which contain but 478 pounds of lint cotton, the remaining 22 pounds going for seed and bagging. From the crop of 1934 there were quota certificates that were not used and which total 700,000 bales, and which can be added to the 1935 quota. In case all of these are used the tax-exempt maximum will be 11,200,000 bales. It is possible the AAA will buy up some of these certificates to prevent their being used.

There has been an increase in the permitted reduction of acreage and for which the farmers may receive rental and benefit payments. The acreage basis is about 39,000,000 acres. From this a total of 25% was allowed to come under the rental program, leaving about 30,000,000 acres for production, but the percentage benefit payments are to be made on the basis of the total acreage planted by the farmer who has contracted to withhold from their average. It is possible that independent farmers will plant 500,000,000 acres, all of which will be subject to the Bankhead restrictive tax. Yield of cotton in the past ten years has averaged about 170 pounds. With average abandonment and yield, the figures suggest a crop from 10,800,000 to 12,000,000 bales.

In the market itself the Supreme Court decision on the gold-clause cases bulked bigger than crop or consumption figures. Until that decision is handed down and digested it is probable that the market will be nervous and erratic. So long as this is the case few outside interests are likely to be interested in cotton.

Range of prices for the week follows:

	High	Low	Last	Adv.	Dec.	High	Low
January cotton	12.49	12.32	12.49	.11	.11	12.03	11.92
March cotton	12.38	12.27	12.45	.11	.11	12.03	11.92
May cotton	12.38	12.23	12.33	.11	.11	12.03	11.92
July cotton	12.38	12.21	12.24	.08	.08	12.03	11.92
October cotton	12.37	12.18	12.44	.08	.08	12.03	11.92
December cotton	12.35	12.23	12.31	.08	.08	12.03	11.92
Spot cotton	12.78	12.54	12.58	.11	.11	12.03	11.92

Sugar The sugar market last week appeared to have gained its balance closing little changed. The January, 1934, position of the old contract continued to provide the excitement when on whether a squeeze would occur in that month. Volume of trading although transactions in the No. 3 contract on Wednesday had the advantage. Reflecting possibly an increasing interest in the No. 3 contract, the spread between the two contracts narrowed to range from one to three points.

The raw market was generally quiet and steady. Offerings were made as high as 2.50 cents delivered, but interest was restricted to around 2.30 cents for Philippines, Puerto Rico, as well as warehouse Cubes which sold as low as 2.77 cents toward the close of the week. Cuba having readjusted her minimum price downward twice to 1.9472 cents and then to 1.8868 on the basis of sales of duty-free sugars, it is now reported that she will scrap shipments of Cubes have as yet been made this year, and it is expected that none will be made before March 1, even although 80% of 1934 quota surplus is sold before that time. At present it is said some 12,000 tons of this surplus remained to be disposed of before, by a Cuban decree, shipments of 1935 sugar to this country from the island could begin. Currently 40 Cuban mills are reported to have started grinding the new crop.

Range of prices for the week follows:

	High	Low	Last	Adv.	Dec.	High	Low
March sugar	1.80	1.54	1.55	.04	.04	1.53	1.50
May sugar	1.81	1.50	1.50	.04	.04	1.53	1.50
July sugar	1.80	1.51	1.53	.03	.03	1.53	1.47
September sugar	1.81	1.56	1.59	.04	.04	1.53	1.53
December sugar	1.80	1.51	1.54	.03	.03	1.53	1.53

Life of delivery

	High	Low	Last	Adv.	Dec.	High	Low
March rubber	12.48	12.30	12.37	.11	.11	12.03	11.92
May rubber	12.74	12.50	12.53	.11	.11	12.03	11.92
July rubber	12.84	12.52	12.52	.11	.11	12.03	11.92

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Slaughter of the Innocents

Continued from Page 54

(1) Leaving unindicted those union members who had left their machines under conditions which were destructive of work in process; (2) Demanding, for a second time, old employees who in the face of personal danger, to make room at their old jobs before, soon out on strike; (3) Firing new employees which the company had been training, who had been willing to face personal danger to get a job. Anyone familiar with factory operations and aware of the extent to which ill feeling had grown between strikers and non-strikers in Southbridge would recognize the tremendous difficulty of running a plant on a competitive cost basis under these conditions. The sound employer-employee relationship which had been the foundation of success had gone. Neither the loyal workers nor the strikers formed alone a group capable of running the Hamilton plant. To continue operations meant placing side by side in the factory members of both of these groups, resolutely opposed to one another.

Two Alternatives

As time went on, other considerations became of equal importance. The company had been unable to promise deliveries on new orders and was behind on its deliveries against old orders. For a corporation manufacturing style fabrics where timeliness is of first importance, this meant serious interference with its ability to compete in the market; prolonged it meant the loss of market importance which might have been followed. One was to import workers, "strike-breakers," from out of town in order to get a full force, the other was to sign an agreement with the union. The first meant the loss of even more serious proportions than was already evident. (2) Also meant that while new men were being trained and morale was being rebuilt, efficiency would be below that of competition. Almost certainly it would mean prosecution of the company under 7a.

The second alternative, that of signing an agreement with the union, the company also refused. The logic of this refusal, when other companies in many industries have felt able to continue operations under union-labor contracts, requires examination. Even though employee morale had been completely broken, the problem, from that standpoint, was not unique. It has been found possible in similar breakdowns, given time and favorable conditions, to rebuild morale in spite of the animosity existing between the two factions. The crux of the matter, in the case of the Hamilton Woollen Co., was that the management could not count on favorable conditions. The executives had to deal not with a seasoned union under natural leadership, but with a green union under the leadership, for the most part, of outsiders. The management had every reason to believe that settling this strike with a suddenness which belied a willingness to reason rather than to act, it had broken an agreement made before the State Board, it had refused settlement proposals which had appeared fair to non-partisan conciliators. Some of its membership had been gained through intimidation. If it were to hold these members it must periodically have something tangible to point to in return for dues paid.

In any company there are bound to be some workers who will not always handle their jobs as well as they might. Management, which is answerable on a competitive basis for the efficiency of its operations, must have the authority to direct workers and to enforce discipline. It is equally true that in any exercise of authority over a period of time mistakes will be made by those to whom authority has been delegated. For example, foremen may be too harsh or may be influenced by personal likes or dislikes. However, unless identical mistakes continue uncorrected or are repeated over and over again even after they have been called to the management's attention, they should not constitute grounds for a strike. An established, responsible union knows this. Yet an irresponsible and unscrupulous union may readily seize upon such mistakes as apparently legitimate excuses for drastic action. Under the circumstances, continued trouble at the

Rubber The market for rubber futures over the past week did not seem to be sure of itself. Continuing the decline of the preceding week, the list was easier at the opening and turned down on the largest volume in several months for a fairly large loss in response to liquidation reflecting the drop in sterling exchange on Tuesday. Futures at their low showed declines of from 120 to 140 points under their highs of the previous week. The trend of prices ignored the fact that rubber markets abroad held relatively steady in face of exchange confusion and, after small declines, tended to advance at the week-end. Futures in this country refused to be wholly measured and having shown a little courage, slipped off at the close. Spot crude prices held a few points above the 13-cent level.

Although factory demand at best appeared to be only fair, the trade must have taken some encouragement from the December figures for domestic consumption which at 36,682 long tons showed an increase of 5.3% over November, 1934, and 27.5% over December, 1933. The inventory situation in this country also showed some improvement with domestic stocks of crude rubber on hand December 31 at 352,632 tons, off 2.3% and 3.4% under November, 1934, and December, 1933, levels, respectively. On the basis of domestic absorption in December, coupled with an average monthly foreign demand of around 36,000 tons monthly, estimates of world consumption during 1934 are being revised upward to around 925,000 tons, from an earlier 900,000. Although 1935 consumption is expected to outstrip that for the past year, there is, however, a tendency in some parts of the market to expect too much from early comparisons.

Range of prices for the week follows:

	High	Low	Last	Adv.	Dec.	High	Low
March rubber	12.48	12.30	12.37	.11	.11	12.03	11.92
May rubber	12.74	12.50	12.53	.11	.11	12.03	11.92
July rubber	12.84	12.52	12.52	.11	.11	12.03	11.92

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July rubber	12.84	12.52	12.52	.11	.11	12.03	11.92

Life of delivery

	High	Low	Last	Adv.	Dec.	High	Low
March rubber	12.48	12.30	12.37	.11	.11	12.03	11.92
May rubber	12.74	12.50	12.53	.11	.11	12.03	11.92

UNION ORDERED BACK TO HAMILTON MILL

***But Head of Woolen Concern
Says It Will Not Reopen for
Work Tomorrow.***

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 22 (AP).—At the suggestion of the Massachusetts Labor Relations Board, headquarters of the United Textile Workers of America has ordered striking workers at the Hamilton Woolen Mill in Southbridge, Mass., to return to work Monday.

It was understood here that the company had agreed to take back striking union members without discrimination and give them work on the same basis as non-union workers, and that pending questions would be settled by negotiation.

The strike, the third at the plant since last Summer, had resulted in a vote of the board of directors to close the mill permanently and to liquidate. This action was expected to throw out 1,000 workers, one-fifth of the working population of Southbridge and neighboring towns.



SOUTHBRIDGE UNION URGED TO END STRIKE: Massachusetts State Board Says ...
New York Times (1923-Current file); Dec 21, 1934; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times
pg. 36

SOUTHBRIDGE UNION URGED TO END STRIKE

***Massachusetts State Board Says
Plan to Liquidate Mill Calls
for Drastic Action.***

BOSTON, Dec. 20 (AP).—The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration tonight moved to prevent the permanent closing of the Hamilton Woolen Company's Southbridge mill or liquidation of the plant, which was indicated yesterday by the vote of the board of directors to recommend to stockholders the final settlement of the business.

The State board urged workers at Southbridge to end their strike and consider further recommendation for a settlement which the board has in mind. A telegram was sent to Jean Gautier, president of the Southbridge local of the United Textile Workers of America, the striking organization, which read in part:

"The Board of Conciliation and Arbitration recommends and urges the immediate calling off of the strike now in progress at the Hamilton Woolen Mills. The situation calls for a major, not minor, operation."

The Southbridge firm, which normally employs about 1,000 workers, one-fifth of the town's employable population, was closed recently after 300 to 400 workers walked out in what they termed a protest against discrimination by the own-

ers against members of the union. Richard Lennihan, the president, announced that the mill was "permanently closed" as the result of the third strike within three months.

TEXTILE STRIKERS CLAIM BIG GAINS: Only 28 of 2,500 Normal Force —
New York Times (1857-1922); Apr. 7, 1922; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times
pg. 17

TEXTILE STRIKERS CLAIM BIG GAINS

Only 28 of 2,500 Normal Force
Report at Pacific Mills
in Lawrence.

FEW GO TO OTHER PLANTS

Rhode Island Militiamen Find
Strike Pickets Armed With
Stones and Revolvers.

LAWRENCE, Mass., April 6.—Striking textile workers, out since March 27 in protest against a 20 per cent. wage cut in seven cotton mills, claimed a signal victory over the mill owners today, the eleventh since the inception of the strike.

When the closing hour came at the Pacific Mills, the principal objective of the picketing during the last few days, not a worker came out past the picket lines. Police explained that mill officials had sent all the workers home in the afternoon at intervals so as to avoid a repetition of last night's disorders. Strike leaders declared that the mill operators took this action because not enough workers appeared this morning to permit them to run any department.

When the lower Pacific Mills opened in the morning only twenty-eight workers of the 2,500 normally employed went to work. Numbers ranging from 300 to 500 had been working at these mills during the last few days.

Officials of the Pacific Mills said tonight that they would not close the mills, but would keep the gates open, regardless of the number of workers reporting. They admitted serious losses at the Pacific plant today.

Conditions at the other mills affected by the strike were unchanged, only a small percentage of operatives answering the whistles.

Francis Gorman, in charge of the strike of the United Textile Workers of America here, said he was well pleased with the day's outcome and his forces would now "centre on the weak spots." Vigorous picketing, he said, would continue at mills where any workers, no matter how few, attempted to work.

Ben Legere, President of the One Big Union, conducted a mass meeting on the common and appointed a strike committee of men and women from the various mills.

Legere asserted that the strike could be satisfactorily settled only by direct negotiations between workers and employers, while Gorman reiterated that his organization was ready and eager for negotiations.

The city authorities decided not to revoke the permit granted to the One Big Union to hold mass meetings on the common, provided there were no repetitions of yesterday's disorders.

The Patchogue-Plymouth mills, makers of fibre rugs, re-opened today with about forty of their four hundred operatives.

Joseph L. Marcoux, who, the police say, is a striker, was stabbed here late this afternoon, while standing before the approach to the Patchogue-Plymouth Mill. His assailant escaped.

The Pacific Print Works was the scene of a small disorder at 6 o'clock this afternoon, when pickets stoned two workers leaving the mill, one of whom was injured.

About 5,000 strike sympathizers gathered at the lower Pacific plant tonight and attacked two men who were seen to leave the plant about 6:30 o'clock. The police rescued the workers uninjured.

SOUTHBRIDGE, Mass., April 6.—The Hamilton Woolen Company, manufacturers of worsteds, announced a wage reduction today, effective next Monday. At the same time the mills will resume work on a full-time schedule. Company officials said the cut would average "close to 20 per cent." The mills, which employ 1,500 operatives, have been operating four days a week for the last month.

PAWTUCKET, R. I., April 6.—Search by militiamen of fifty strike pickets who had assembled today near the Lebanon Bridge, on the Rhode Island-Massachusetts boundary, disclosed stones in the pockets of several and one revolver, officers said.

Deputy Sheriffs on guard at the Crown Manufacturing Company's plant, hearing the reports of two shots, found that two workers on their way to the Crown Mill, fearing that pickets intended to molest them, fired revolvers in the air. The men reached the mill in safety. Strike leaders announced they would ask the police by what right the workers carried revolvers.

WORKERS ASSAULTED BY SOUTHBIDGE MOB

Nearly 800 Strikers Maul
35 at Hamilton Plant

SOUTHBIDGE, Sept. 27—While police stood powerless in the immediate vicinity 35 employees of the Hamilton Woolen Company were mobbed late this afternoon by hundreds of strikers who hauled them from taxicabs and punched them severely before fleeing from the scene.

Nearly 1200 other persons gathered near the plant and witnessed the fracas which assumed riotous proportions as women strikers pulled hair, struck faces and denounced the small group which defied the local union and refused to join in the walkout called for this morning.

Several of the automobiles carrying the workers were overturned and stones and other missiles were hurled in the direction of the workers by the unruly crowd.

Two arrests were made after the disturbance. Joseph Czaplinski, 39, of 61 West st was charged with throwing missiles and Romeo La-berge, 39, of 32 Plimpton st was charged with drunkenness.

The women "strikers" were the leaders in the riot and men workers willingly followed them. It was reported at first that shots were fired, but Chief of Police Ulric Brault denied this and attributed the noise to fireworks. Some men and women, less hardy than those who attacked the workers, stood at a distance and threw stones at the plant, breaking many windows.

The disturbance occurred after a day of tension at the plant with only 35 of the 800 workers reporting for work and the others massed outside in a picket line. Chief Brault and his 12 uniformed policemen remained on duty all day, augmented by 60 special officers and a number of special guards employed by the mill officials.

Failure of the mill owners to recognize the local union of the United Textile Workers of America was given as the reason for today's walkout. The plant closed down Sept. 6 and reopened last Monday. All 800 employes were asked to report Monday morning and they filled out cards and were told they would be called when needed. Only 200 were told to come to work immediately and of these only 35 responded today.

Prior to the general textile strike there were no union employes but during the shutdown of the mill organizers of the U. T. W. A. came into this town and organized the workers. Union officials claimed that 700 of the 800 employes have joined the union and charged that the company had been discriminating against the union members in violation of the terms of the strike settlement.

The plant took steps to protect the 35 workers who came to the plant this morning and taxicabs and automobiles were hired to take the workers home. At 5 o'clock when the day's work was done the machines left the plant and were immediately surrounded by hundreds of strikers. The occupants were pulled into the street and pummeled and the taxis were overturned.

After the disturbance the workers marched to the Dresser-st Playgrounds for a meeting called by Ira H. Dickens of Worcester, U. T. W. A. organizer. The meeting was broken up by a heavy thunderstorm.

Pres Richard Lennihan of the company is in New York on business and is expected here tomorrow morning. Meanwhile other mill officials deny charges of the union and claim that they are waiting to hear from President Roosevelt through his Mediation Board before reemploying all workers.

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